DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XV,no.41 Section 1 November 17,1924

Farm Commission to Meet — Members of the President's agricultural commission will meet for the first time to-day at the White House. The President will tell the commission of nine members his purpose in instituting the investigation--to have formulated a program for permanent stabilization of agriculture--and it is expected the organization will begin its work at once. A course of procedure has not been decided upon. The meetings will be conducted with the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture. (Press, Nov.17.)

Land Inquiry Urged — Creation of a fact finding commission to investigate control of the domain in the Western States was proposed to President Coolidge November 15 by a committee representing the conference of extension service of eleven Western States. The committee asked the investigation be conducted with a view to outlining a policy which would promote the livestock industry, and at the same time protect reclamation projects. (Press, Nov.16.)

Land Grant Colleges — An editorial in The New York Times to-day says: "The President by his address to the Association of Land Grant Colleges brought into general notice those institutions in the several States which for the last half century have been studying the problems of agriculture and industry, and through their teaching trying to give farmers especially whatever benefit science has to contribute practically to their help. The first bill introduced by Justin S.Morrill, Senator from Vermont, looking toward the establishment of such 'colleges,' was passed by a very small vote and was vetoed by President Buchanan....Some of these institutions maintain their independent existence, as, for example, the Colleges of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts in Iowa, Kansas, Michigan and Connecticut; some have grown into the great State universities, as in Minnesota, Illinois, Nebraska and Nevada, while a few are associated with private institutions, as in New Jersey and Indiana. In New York, Cornell University was the recipient of the original grant in scrip from an allotment of 990,000 acres. Senator Morrill has his monument in this act. While it had precedent in the Federal grants for common schools, it marked the entrance of our Government into the higher ranges of education. These colleges have clearly done one thing: they have, as the President said, raised agriculture to a new standard. The fears expressed by President Buchanan have not been realized. They are of all 'colleges' the nearest to the people at large. They still smell of the earth, for they were created out of land. Together they make the greatest educational establishment in America."

Section 2

Cotton and Pig Iron The Wall Street Journal of November 15 says: "Recently a chart was publidhed in this newspaper showing the production and prices of pig iron over a series of years. If consumers of cotton should project upon this chart a line showing cotton fluctuations over the same period it would make an instructive study. Because production of iron is easily regulated according to profitable demand it is usefully sensitive to general business conditions. For this reason it is rightly regarded as one of the barometers in the world of business conditions. Prices below the profitable point are reflected in a lower production indicating poor business conditions Increasing production means business activity on a profitable basis. In 1920 pig iron began to tell of a slowing up of business, and in the summer of 1921 prices and production reached bottom. Then began an upward movement lasting into the summer of 1923 followed by a reaction and another short rally in the first quarter of 1924, when production again turned sharply downward. A chart of raw cotton consumption would not look greatly different. The Federal Reserve index of basic production shows that pig iron reached its crest for this season in February and its low point in July. From that point it began to climb upward. Cotton consumption ran one month ahead of iron. Its highest point for the calendar year was in January, when 576,644 bales of lint were consumed. The lowest point was in July, with a record of 346,671 bales. The line now is curving upward and synchronizing with that of iron. Production is influenced by prices. A falling price index is a restraining influence upon production, while a rising one is sure to stimulate industry. The general price index helps to explain the curves in production of basic commodities. The index was at its highest point in the early months of this year and then turned downward, reaching its lowest point in June. This corresponds to the low consumption of cotton in July. From that point the price index began to move upward, and obediently following it pig iron production and cotton began an upward movement. Many factors enter into the price index, but if we will look into the prices of wheat, we will find some explanation of the curves of this chart. In the summer of 1923 farmers sold their wheat at an unusually low price, and later this was reflected in business conditions. Wheat prices from the first month of this year went steadily downward until in April they reached their lowest point. In June it became plain that the world crop would be short. Prices began to advance and have moved upward from that time. Other crops have also appreciated in value and the farm income this year will be considerably larger than a year ago. In consequence of this there will be a great increase in the purchasing power of the rural population of the country. These facts make for better business conditions. They also have some effect upon the price index and should be an encouragement not only to those who use iron, or consume cotton, but to the business community as a whole."

Dairying and Diversification

An editorial in The Progressive Farmer for November 15 says: "Since the close of the war, nearly all farm products have experienced a period of low or unprofitable prices. Cotton was one of the first to suffer, and last year wheat was the outstanding victim. Dairy products, while suffering some reduction in prices, have held up well until recently. It is probable that they will take their turn in the depression, but being among the last to suffer, possibly the decline in prices will not be so great. In all lines of farming and especially in livestock farming in the South, the tendency has always been to change to some other line of production when there is a slump in prices....It takes years to learn the dairy business and build up a high-producing herd, and no one should think of sacrificing his herd and changing to some other line when the recurring slumps in prices come. We hope our southern farmers who have recently started selling milk or cream will not make the mistake of closing out this line of work when prices decline.....Anyone who goes through Denmark or Holland or Wisconsin and sees what the dairy cow has done for these sections will be slow to quit dairy production because of a temporary depression in prices."

German Duty on Flour

An editorial in Modern Miller for November 8 says: "The matter of imposing a duty on flour by the German Reichstag, at its next session, is directed against the imports of American flour. The German millers are attempting to make it appear that the proposed duty of $1.50 per barrel will not interfere with trade in high grade flour from the United States and Canada, which of course is a most unsound assumption and probably this information is spread with a view to lessening the opposition from the German consumers and softening the sentiment in exporting countries. Another promise by German millers is that it will not increase the price of bread. Germany has been the beneficiary of flour supplies at a very close world level. German mills quite naturally do not want competition, but Germany's problem is cheap foodstuff for the masses, or profits for German mills.....Germany attempting to meet the high cost of food by shutting out imported flour, has selected a very inopportune time. Any duty on foodstuffs indicates German economic blundering. When Germany can produce wheat the world level, millers would be entitled to protection. Or if German consumers can stand increased food prices paternalism is justifiable."

Milling Cooperation

The Dixie Miller for November quotes Charles J.Todd, secretary-treasurer Piedmont Millers Association, as saying: "The fact is stressed everywhere, that the greatest need of the milling industry is sensible cooperation and honest competition, together with selling methods based on complete knowledge of costs and other details of operation. To me it is quite a distressing fact, when we consider that practically every other class of business is well organized, and doing effective work in their respective lines, that there seems to be among some

millers an unwillingness, or a disinterestedness, in applying to their own business a method that everyone admits is beneficial to them. The wholesale grocers, the wholesale hardware people, the clothiers, the retail merchants, the farmers, the busmen and others are organized. The object of these organizations is not for the purpose of forming a monopoly, or that there may be any restraint of trade. It is for protection and self-preservation. It seems to me there is greater need for concerted action among millers than in any other class of business. The milling industry is constantly being assailed by unscrupulous politicians and numerous writers in the papers and magazines, who are apparently wholly ignorant of the situation. If the miller is not inclined to protect himself, who will? Unless there is practiced more of the spirit of confidence and cooperation the millers may expect to continue to do business for nothing, if not at an actual loss of money."

Pulpwood Embargo

A Montreal dispatch to the press of November 15 states that although the Embargo Commission has not made a conclusive report, efforts will be made by the Canadian pulp and paper interests to obtain an embargo which would preserve the forests of Quebec from American companies.

Russian Relations

American bankers who may be approached to finance Russian business are cautioned to have in mind the fact that the Soviet Government "is in position to change the whole trade that they may have undertaken with any country without notice," in a report on Russian conditions prepared by the commerce and marine commission of the American Bankers Association. The report says in part: "Since the death of Lenine, conditions in Russia have constantly been growing worse and progress toward more satisfactory conditions has been dissipated. The Russian army is largely made up of the sons of peasants who have been well looked after with the hope that they will see in any change of Government only a chance of faring worse than at present....In connection with foreign trade development by American exporters with Russian interests, it would be well for bankers to have in mind that the Soviet Government is in position to change the whole trade that they may have undertaken with any country without notice. Recently such action has been taken on two occasions - once, when the German Government investigated one of the Soviet Commissions in Berlin, the whole trade carried on with Germany was thrown over to Holland and Czecho-Slovakia; again, the trade with France was taken away because the Soviet Government did not like a decision in the French Supreme Court which was considered against its interests. It is well for bankers to have this situation in mind should they be asked to finance Russian trade while conditions exist as at present."(Press statement, Am.Bankers Assoc.)

Trade Balance

A favorable trade balance for the United States of $217,000,000 was shown November 14 in foreign trade figures issued by the Commerce Department for October. The figures indicated the balance had more than doubled in favor of America since October last year, when it was $90,908,205. (Press, Nov.15.)

Wheat Surplus and Prices

An editorial in The New York Times of November 15 says: "From different quarters the American farmer is being invited to contemplate the golden age when his sales will be restricted to the 'home market' and his vicissitudes will be at an end. President Coolidge declared on Thursday that men now living may see the time when this country will be importing food instead of exporting it; 'and in this lies the assurance to the American farmer that his own future is secure enough.' It was in the President's mind that the price of American wheat will cease to be fixed at Liverpool when no American wheat is landed on the shores of the Mersey. And a 'fair' price for wheat in the home market will be assured presumably by the same tariff method that now keeps our industries safeguarded against foreign competition. The President's belief in an impending revolutionary change in our agriculture is held by other public men, notably Secretary Hoover, and by not a few economists. But until the change comes and our wheat surplus disappears Mr. Coolidge correctly stresses the need of such nearer remedies as improved marketing and sounder economics on the farm. By improved marketing the President probably means in part the development of agricultural credit facilities along the lines already pursued for a good many years.

"Much more impatient is the National Grange now meeting at Atlantic City. That 'home market' which President Coolidge sees arriving in its own good time, through the inevitable play of economic forces, the Grange would create at once by the simple method of restricting crop production. The argument makes its plausible appeal to the law of supply and demand: the less wheat thrown on the market, the higher the prices for the farmer. The Grange is thorough. It calls for the abandonment of the irrigation and reclamation program into which Theodore Roosevelt put so much heart and energy. How far the limitation of crops should be carried the Grange does not state, but it must be very drastic indeed if the desired results are to be attained. At present the size of the American farmer's wheat crop bears no relation whatsoever to the prices he obtains. In 1921 he raised 815,000,000 bushels and the Chicago price was $1.09 per bushel. In 1922 he raised 867,000,000 bushels and the price was $1.15. In 1923 he raised 785,000,000 bushels and the price was $1.08. This year the estimated wheat crop is 856,000,000 bushels and May wheat to-day is about $1.65. To usher in the Grange solution, therefore, a half-hearted policy of crop limitation will not do. For the country as a whole there must be a cut of at least 25 per cent in order to eliminate that potential surplus of a quarter billion bushels. This is the idea which the Grange must 'sell' to the American farmer. But we fear that this year the Grange will encounter a great deal of 'customer-resistance.' With

wheat at something like a dollar in Chicago the idea might be put across. But that additional 65 cents makes an enormous difference in rural psychology, as Senator LaFollette, among others, recently found out. To be sure, it was mere chance that Canada's wheat crop should have failed and that famine should be descending upon Russia. It is conceivable that wheat may be down to a dollar next year. But that contingency will be hard to impress in November, 1924, on the farmer who five years ago proceeded to buy acreage at inflated prices on the apparent assumption that the World War would go on forever."

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

For the week ended November 15: Northern potatoes advanced 15 to 20¢ in midwestern markets; 5 to 10¢ higher at shipping points. Eastern potatoes unsettled. New York Round Whites mostly $1.05 to $1.10 sacked per 100 pounds, top of $1.25 in Pittsburgh; mostly 80¢ to 85¢ f.o.b. Rochester. New York Danish type cabbage sold slowly at $10 to $15 bulk per ton in eastern markets; $7 to $8 f.o.b. Rochester. Northern Danish type $15 in St.Louis; $9 to $10 f.o.b. Kenosha,Wis. Midwestern yellow onions steady to firm at $1.50 to $2 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers; $1.40 f.o.b. West Michigan points. Michigan Baldwin apples steady at $5.50 to $6.75 in Chicago; while best quality New York Baldwins were $5.50 in New York.

Chicago hog prices ranged from 15¢ lower to 45¢ higher than a week ago, closing at $9.75 for the top, and $8.50 to $9.40 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers steady to 25¢ higher, mostly 15 to 25¢ up; veal calves 25 to 50¢ down, at $8.50 to $9.50.

Butter markets steady early in week and firm at close. There continued to be a scarcity of fancy grades, but medium and undergrades were plentiful. Foreign demand neglible. Closing wholesale prices 92 score butter: New York 42¢; Chicago 39 3/4¢; Philadelphia 42 1/2¢; Boston 40¢.

Cheese markets appeared firm at slightly advanced prices. Trading was more or less quiet but prices were maintained. Wholesale prices on Wisconsin primary markets November 14: Single Daisies 19 1/2¢; Double Daisies 19¢; Longhorns 19 1/4¢; Square Prints 21¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated markets advanced 126 points during the week closing at 24.48¢ per lb. New York December future contracts advanced 122 points, closing at 24.66¢.

Grain market unsettled after advances. Wheat futures fluctuating closing about 2 1/2 to 4¢ higher than week ago with reduced estimates of Canadian and Argentine crops and claims of damage in Australia aiding advance. Rye slightly higher with wheat. Corn futures about 3 to 4¢ higher than week ago on strength in wheat and disappointing husking returns. Oats up about 1¢ with corn. Flax about 12¢ to 13¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Nov.15,	Nov.14,	Nov.15,1923
20 Industrials	108.68	108.96	90.87
20 R.R.stocks	93.88	93.93	80.70

(Wall St. Jour., Nov.17.)

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Vol.XV,no.42 Section 1 November 18,1924

President's Agricultural Committee Meets — In compliance with the request of President Coolidge, members of the agricultural committee appointed by him last week called at the White House yesterday morning before entering upon their duties of studying the agricultural situation with a view of making recommendations to bring about stability of agriculture. After the conference at the White House the opinion was expressed by members of the committee that it was very evident that the President had a thorough knowledge of the agricultural situation and was sincere in his efforts that something should be done to bring about better conditions in agriculture and a better balance between agriculture and other industries. The President informed the members of the committee that they were not limited in the scope of their investigations and that every Government department stood ready to assist in any possible manner. All members of the committee called upon the President with the exception of C.S.Barrett, chairman of the National Board of Farm Organizations, who is in Oklahoma attending the annual meeting of the Farmers' Union. Immediately after the conference the committee adjourned to headquarters in the Department of Agriculture where the first session was called by its chairman Robert D. Carey of Careyhurst, Wyo., former governor of that State. An early decision was reached by the committee that its investigations would come under the three main divisions, namely, agricultural legislation, administration of present laws, and education. The meetings are being continued to-day at the Department of Agriculture. (Press, Nov.18.)

Grange Declarations — An Atlantic City dispatch to the press to-day says: "Strong opposition to any amendment of the new Immigration act, particularly as regards Japanese and Chinese exclusion, was expressed at Atlantic City November 17 by the delegates to the annual convention of the National Grange....According to leaders, the Grange will adopt a resolution from the California delegation protesting against any change in the ineligible alien clause of the law 'on the ground that the present provisions are a necessary safeguard to the American farm home and to the white race.'... The Grange criticises the present method of administering Federal Farm loans. 'Farmer borrowers,' it is stated 'are the sole stockholders and owners of the Federal Farm Loan System and yet are not permitted to federate the Local Farm Loan associations or to control their own board of directors. We therefore favor amendments to the Farm Loan act restoring control of the Farm Loan System to the stockholders and removing all restrictions on federation.'...The Grange will oppose, it was announced, the exportation of American lumber to foreign countries 'in the alarming quantities that have been going out in recent years.'... Delegates declared that the McNary-Haugen bill, defeated in the last session of Congress, should be passed at the coming session. Grange officials announced that no genuine relief for the farm business could be obtained until some such adjustment of tariff priviliges was made."

Section 2

Agriculture

An editorial in The New York World for November 16 says: "'In a very few years,' said President Coolidge to the Association of Land Grant Colleges, 'the natural increase of population and the inevitable tendency to industrialization will place us among the nations producing a deficit rather than a surplus of agricultural products.' Even now, he added, 'we consume more calories of food than we produce,' owing to heavy importations of sugar. This is not a new note in industrial prediction In his Presidential address before the British Association in Bristol in 1898 Sir William Crookes, the distinguished chemist, used almost the same words in predicting that the United States would very soon become a food-importing Nation. Owing to his high repute as a scientist the prediction made a great sensation in this country. Yet it proved wide of the mark. In the quarter century which was closing as Crookes spoke our exports of foodstuffs and food animals had been, roughly, some fifteen billions. In the quarter of a century that followed his speech they were approximately twenty billions. Part of the increase was due to higher prices, but the United States remains, more than a quarter of a century after the Crookes prediction, an important food-exporting country still. Of this fact and of its effect upon the national prosperity there could be no better illustration than the rise in wheat prices which so swelled Mr Coolidge's election majorities in the West. This was due entirely to world conditions creating an actual food shortage. The surplus exported fixed, as it has always fixed, the domestic price, regardless of fake tariffs. Mr. Coolidge holds out to his farmer audience the prospect of the speedy disappearance of the export surplus--when the tariff would operate and the improvements in marketing methods which he commends might become more important. But the decline in wheat surplus exported is hardly rapid. That surplus averaged 24 per cent of the yield in the ten years 1869-1879. Forty years later, in the ten years 1909-19, which included the great war, it averaged 22 per cent of the yield. Have the farmers themselves any faith in Mr. Coolidge's prophecies of a golden time when scarcity of food at home will enable them to charge their fellow-citizens a high price for it? They do not show that faith. An official statement of the National Grange, put out as the President was speaking, indorsed the position of Gen.Dawes during the campaign against further reclamation and irrigation work by the Federal Government; 'no artificial stimulation of agricultural production,' it says, 'is either justifiable or desirable' for 'the welfare of the Nation.' The land grant colleges whose heads the President addressed are trying to teach the production of bigger and better crops. The Grange would restrict crops, hobble nature in her bounty in a hungry world so that scarcity prices may prevail. The Nation's new immigration policy will work against this benevolent purpose; hungry stomachs are not increasing in number as swiftly as they did in the days when

a million immigrants were coming yearly. The export surplus and world prices look good for some years yet. So the more you change this weary world the more it is the same old thing. Big Business can paint a rosy picture of America in 1949, with Presidents and chemists still promising the golden glorious boon of food scarcity, high prices and semi-starvation; with farmers still selling their crops at free-trade prices, still buying supplies at protection prices...still hoping by tugging at their boot-straps to lift themselves out of ruin.... "

Australian Wool Sales The press of November 17 states that J.A.M.Elder, the commissioner for Australia in the United States, November 16 received the following cablegram from his Government concerning the disposal of the wool clip: "Melbourne,Nov.15.--The Australian Wool Growers' Council and the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers have decided to spread the selling season from January to June for the realization of the balance of the 1924-25 clip, which reached record proportions. A total of 1,150,000 bales are to be disposed of as follows: In January 200,000 bales will be sold, 225,000 bales in February, 250,000 in March, 250,000 in April, 130,000 bales in May and the balance in June."

Canada's Wheat The Wall St. Journal for November 17 says: "Canada officially estimates its wheat crop at 271,622,000 bushels. This compares with the earlier estimate, on which the market has relied, of 291,000,000 bushels. When this latest result is taken in connection with other foreign crop news it will be seen that the world supply of wheat is coming perilously close to actual needs. The slightest mishap to the Southern Hemisphere crop now would be serious from the point of view of those who must buy wheat for consumption. On the first of October the crop in the United States showed an increase of about 20,000,000 bushels, making the total 856,000,000. This made the situation appear fairly comfortable. The foreign situation, however, more than offset this and European figures now are dwindling. The latest reports of decreases come from Poland, Spain, France, and Italy. The latest reduction makes the European crop 1,094,000,000 bushels instead of 1,129,904,-000 carried in the earlier estimates. This also compares with 1,260,000,000 produced in Europe last year and an average of 1,348,000,000 bushels in the five years before the war. Present day Russia is excluded from all these calculations. To make the matter a little more serious the revised estimates, including unofficial figures from five countries, make the rye crop of Europe smaller than the earlier figures. Earlier preliminary estimates of 783,000,000 bushels are revised downward to 705,000,000. Those same countries of Europe a year ago produced 826,000,000 bushels of rye and in the last five years before the war an annual average of 976,000,000 bushels. From preliminary estimates now available Europe has 166,000,000 bushels less of wheat than a year ago and 124,000,000 bushels

less of rye, making a total reduction of 290,000,000 bushels of bread grains compared with last year. If compared with the five year average before the war the total crop is 528,000,000 bushels short. The other countries of the Northern Hemisphere, including the exporters as well as the importers, before this last estimate of the Canadian crop, were thought to have 140,621,000 bushels less wheat and 7,000,000 bushels less rye than a year ago. Counting Europe, the whole Northern Hemisphere before Canada's last estimate appeared to be short 437,000,000 bushels of wheat and rye compared with last year. Canada was counted upon to furnish approximately 200,000,000 bushels of export wheat. A reduction therefore of 20,000,000 bushels is a matter of grave importance to the importing world. The last estimate not only seriously reduces Canada's surplus, it raises the world shortage to 457,000,000 bushels compared with last year. Heretofore European buyers have pinned much hope on the Southern Hemisphere. That harvest is still in the lap of the gods, but on the third of November wheat at Buenos Aires for February delivery was quoted at $1.50 and on the thirteenth of this month $1.61 3/4. Apparently there is not enough wheat in the world, and the trend of prices must be upwards."

Child Labor Amendment

An editorial in Hoard's Dairyman for November 14 says: ". .We see no reason for anyone drawing the conclusion that if the proposed child labor law is ratified, it will not apply to farm children....We do not believe in extending any such power to Congress. We do believe that States should have reasonable child labor laws, and the most of them have. It is a crime to us to work children long hours in factories and mines and at many other occupations, but it is a greater crime to enact a law preventing a person from working until they are eighteen years of age. It would be rank injustice to the child and would be conducive to producing weak and incapable men and women. The Ohio Farm Bureau has stated: 'Idleness by law is as repulsive as enforced servitude.'...It is plain to see that the real motive for this amendment intends to prohibit the labor of all persons under eighteen years of age. We are opposed to it, for the evils it would correct are far less than the evils it would create."

France Urges Price-Fixing

A Paris dispatch to the press of November 17 states that a return to war measures as a means of combating the high cost of living in France was advocated by the Socialist Deputy, Leon Betoulle, in the November 15 session of the Chamber of Deputies, which included an extended discussion on this problem nearest to the hearts of the masses of the French people. M.Betoulle proposed the re-establishment of departmental bureaus for the regulation of wheat, coal and sugar production and consumption, with powers of requisition and price fixing.

Hawaiian Sugar Growers Protest Tariff Cut

A Honolulu dispatch to the press of November 17 states that business interests in Honolulu, through the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Hawaii, have filed with President Coolidge a formal request to make no reductions in the present sugar tariff.

Prices 1 A New Haven dispatch to the press of November 17 states that Professor Irving Fisher's index number of American commodity prices last week, based on 100 as the average of 1913, is 153.8, as compared with 150.9 the preceding week and 151.5 two weeks ago. The highest percentage of the year to date was 155.2, on Feb.9; the lowest was 142.3, on June 29. The highest percentage since the war was 247, in May, 1920; the lowest, 130, in January, 1922. Crump's British index number, as cabled for the past week, was 164.4, comparing with 164.7 in the preceding week and with 164.2 two weeks ago.

2 The Journal of Commerce for November 17 says: "'The rise of prices could not have been due to the rise of wages.' Furthermore 'the future of general prices will be very little affected by the prices paid as wages to labor.' Such is the opinion of one economist whose views were recently expressed before the Academy of Political Science. Another economist told the same body that higher taxes are the result and not the cause of high prices, although 'unproductive' taxes are apt to raise the price level by increasing cost. Is the general public to conclude on the basis of these authoritative pronouncements that the problem of high living costs, which is the individualistic aspect of the problem of high prices, has little if any connection with the cost of labor or the cost of government? Are these costs to be regarded as mere resultants of an all-embracing cause which is alone responsible for higher prices? And if so, what practical deductions are to be drawn from acceptance of these theories? Are we asked to conclude that there is no remedy for high prices to be found in wage reductions, no relief to be got from economies in taxation? The questions themselves not only demonstrate the absurdity of any such conclusions but they show that theories concerning the cause of high prices do not always afford a clue to the remedy for high prices. For that matter, it is safe to say that every single element entering into the cost of production of all commodities at the present time, or at any time, is in one sense a result and not a cause of the price level. Costs in the form of wages, rents, taxes, etc., are incurred because certain prices are expected to be secured for the product on the basis of the already existing general price level, and of the existing prices for specific commodities....Whatever produced the present high prices of finished goods most of us will agree that if some, any or all of the costs of producing them can be reduced these prices will also fall. If we lower taxes by controlling wasteful, or as one of the speakers already quoted has said 'unproductive,' public outlays, we shall in the long run lower the selling prices of goods in general. If we reduce wages, especially in those occupations in which they are decidedly out of line with other comparable activities, we shall with equal certainty secure the finished products of such labor for lower prices. If, however, we delay attempts of adjustment on the ground that, logically speaking, there is no good point of departure from which to make a start, then we shall arrive nowhere, except by the road of a drastic general deflation."

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Nov.17: Northern potatoes advanced 10 to 30¢ in midwestern markets. Eastern stock unsettled. New York Round Whites mostly $1 to $1.15 sacked per 100 pounds, top of $1.25 in Pittsburgh; 80 to 85¢ f.o.b. Rochester. Eastern Shore of Virginia yellow varieties of sweet potatoes advanced 50¢ to $1 in eastern cities closing at $3.75 to $4.50 per barrel. New York Danish type cabbage ranged $10 to $18 bulk per ton, top of $20 in Pittsburgh; $7 to $8 f.o.b. Rochester. New York yellow varieties ranged $1.65 to $2.10 sacked per 100 pounds, top of $2.25 in Boston; best stock $1.60 to $1.70 f.o.b. Rochester. Midwestern yellows $1.50 to $2 in consuming centers. Eastern York Imperial apples firm at $4.50. Midwestern Jonathans mostly $7 to $8 in Chicago.

Chicago hog prices closed at $9.60 for the top and $8.40 to $9.20 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $6.65 to $11.50; butcher cows and heifers $3.25 to $11.25 feeder steers $4.25 to $7.50 and veal calves $7.50 to $9.50.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 43¢; Philadelphia 43¢; Boston 41¢.

Grain prices quoted Nov.17: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.51 to $1.73; No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.62 to $1.67; Kansas City $1.57 to $1.60. No.3 red winter Chicago $1.55 1/4 to $1.56 1/2. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.52 to $1.55; St.Louis $1.51 1/2 to $1.52; Kansas City $1.46 to $1.54. No.2 mixed corn Chicago $1.15 to $1.16; Minneapolis $1.12 to $1.14. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.16 1/4 to $1.17 1/4; Minneapolis $1.16; Kansas City $1.08. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.15 1/2 to $1.16 1/2; Minneapolis $1.11 to $1.14; St. Louis $1.11. No.2 white corn Chicago $1.14 1/2 to $1.16; Kansas City $1.06. No.3 white corn (new) St.Louis $1.10. No.3 white oats Chicago 50 1/2 to 53¢; Minneapolis 48 1/4 to 48 1/2¢; St.Louis 53 to 53 1/2¢; No.2 white oats Kansas City 52 1/2¢.

Spot cotton down 53 points, closing at 23.95¢ per lb. New York December future contracts down 63 points, closing at 24.03¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Nov.17,	Nov.15,	Nov.17,1923
20 Industrials	109.51	108.68	89.65
20 R.R.stocks	94.76	93.88	79.80

(Wall St. Jour., Nov.18.)

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Vol.XV,no.43 Section 1 November 19, 1924

The President's Agricultural Commission

After calling upon several branches of the Federal Government for a digest of information of their functions on specific subjects coming under the scope of the investigation now under way, the Agricultural Commission appointed by President Coolidge November 18 made plans to recess Wednesday evening until such time as these reports have been submitted and members of the commission have had an opportunity to study them closely. It was specifically stated by Robert D. Carey, chairman of the commission, that the scope of the investigation was such that it would be impossible for the commission to complete its work before Congress convened in December but that some phases undoubtedly would be ready before Congress adjourns. It was not definitely stated when the next meeting of the commission would be held as a great deal depends on the time the information asked for is ready but it is expected that it will be three or four weeks hence.

Recognizing the depressed condition of the cattle industry the commission early determined to arrive at some immediate recommendation looking to the stabilization of this phase of agriculture. An early decision on this matter is anticipated. Among other things the commission has asked for information on the Government structure of finance as it relates to agriculture, particularly from the Federal Farm Loan Board, the Federal Reserve Board, and the War Finance Corporation. Close study also will be made of Government statistics, including those collected for agriculture, what purposes are served in each case and what Government department is responsible for the collection and dissemination of the different classes of statistics. One of the most important studies to be undertaken by the commission will have to do with foreign competition of American agricultural products. This will involve an investigation of the costs of foreign products with which major American products compete and a study of the main obstacles with reference to exporting surplus products from this country. Other phases of agriculture to come under the scope of the commission as announced after its preliminary sessions include: public land policies as they affect American agriculture, including forestry, conservation of resources, and grazing; water power as it affects agricultural development; standardization of agricultural products and the scope of present laws governing standardization; Federal aid to agricultural education and research; and regulatory legislation. At the session yesterday eleven bureau chiefs and members of various Government commissions were called in for consultation. (Press, Nov.19.)

Sugar Tariff Data to the President

The press of November 18 states that the Tariff Commission sent to President Coolidge November 17 supplemental reports requested by him in connection with the investigation of duties on sugar. The supplemental reports include conflicting recommendations of the two groups within the commission, one is in support of original recommendations of three members for a reduction of duty, while the other signed by two members opposes any reduction. The Department of Agriculture also has completed its report to the President and early action may now be expected.

Section 2

Agriculture 1 Providence Journal for November 15 says: "President Coolidge did well to call the attention of the Association of Land Grant Colleges to the fundamental weakness of agriculture in this country to-day, namely, the absence of a proper marketing system for farm products. In his address before the association Thursday evening in Washington he told his audience that heretofore production of agricultural commodities has been the chief concern of the farmer. What becomes of them after he has raised them is a matter that has received altogether too little attention from the producer. Of course, the question of cooperative marketing of agricultural commodities has become a live issue in many parts of the country. But the scheme has not yet been developed as it ought to be. That the President of the United States has declared publicly in favor of an extension of the system of cooperative marketing should be of considerable interest to farmers in every part of the country. The fruit growers and the tobacco raisers long since perfected a satisfactory method for disposing of their products without sacrificing too much of the profits to middlemen In fact, the owners of citrus fruit orchards several years ago inaugurated a system of cooperative marketing that not only has increased profits for the producer without advancing the price to the ultimate consumer, but, moreover, has developed a solidarity of interests among all citrus fruit growers that has been reflected in Congressional legislation for the further advancement of the industry, particularly as regards tariff protection against foreign products. If the problem of marketing were satisfactorily solved, most of the habitual complaint of farmers concerning inadequate financial returns in proportion to effort expended would disappear. This question of distribution of farm products, as regards proper compensation to the producer, will become more acute in the years ahead if the excessive absorption of profits by middlemen is not counteracted. As President Coolidge points out, unless the farmer protects himself by becoming a business man as well as a tiller of the soil, unless he adopts progressive methods in handling his affairs, the lapse of time is apt to reduce him to a mere peasant instead of the independent, enterprising member of the community that he is to-day. For their own sake, therefore, as well as for the welfare of the Nation which must inevitably be infinitely more prosperous with an independent agricultural community than with a subservient peasantry, it behooves the farmers to apply themselves with renewed energy to the solution of this vital problem."

2 An editorial in The Washington Post of November 18 says: "It was a most interesting coincidence that last week, on the same day and at almost the same moment of time, the President of the United States was warning the Land Grant agricultural colleges of the Nation that we are rapidly approaching a time when there will be a deficit instead of a surplus in our farm products, and the National Grange was

recommending a policy of limiting agricultural production to the demands of the Nation for home consumption. Between the two utterances, made from different points of view, there is a marked contrast, though each may suggest a complement to the other For if we are presently to reach a point where our production will be less than the demand, the policy urged by the Grange will be automatically executed; while if the Grange can succeed in making the supply commensurate with the demand, the deficit will not occur. An instructive light will be thrown upon the subject in a comparison of the increase in population with the increase in the chief agricultural products, during, let us say, the last half century. Since 1880 there has been a marked decrease in the percentage of population engaged in agriculture; the figures being 15.01 per cent in 1880, 14.28 in 1890, 13.15 in 1900, 13.04 in 1910, and 10.01 in 1920. That, however, is not as ominous as it looks to be. The introduction of machinery has made it possible for fewer men to do a larger amount of work. There has been no such decrease in the production of crops, but the latter has kept pretty well up with the population. This is obviously one of the finest possible tributes to the agricultural colleges to which the President was addressing himself. The scientific methods and training promoted by them are largely what has made it possible for a decreasing number of farmers to keep up the quantity of products. And it was most pertinent and timely for the President to urge that the good work of the colleges should be still more earnestly pressed. For, indeed, the turning point, between surplus and deficit, of which he gave warning, does threaten us. That is because, in spite of this maintenance of supply, the extent of arable land available for increase of the farm area is nearing exhaustion, and at the last census the majority of our population was found to be, for the first time, urban. With a rapidly increasing majority of the people dwelling in cities, and with all tillable land occupied for farming, it is obvious that it will be increasingly difficult and ultimately impossible for the crops to keep pace with the growth of population. Obviously, then, the failure of this country to provide food sufficient for its own needs is to be avoided, if it can be avoided, only by further extension of acientific methods in intensive cultivation. That is the aim which both the President and the National Grange, from their different standpoints, have in view; and it is one which the credit and welfare of the Nation demand to have attained."

Arkansas Road Tax The press of November 18 says: "Without passing on the merits of the litigation, the Supreme Court November 17 refused to grant relief to Mrs. M.L.House of Conway County,Ark., whose farm, the income from which will not average $6,000 annually, is taxed more than $2,500 a year for highways. The bottoms of lakes, cypress brakes and swamps also are taxed as though they were available for or in cultivation. The Court dismissed the case on the ground that no Federal question was involved. No

opinion was delivered as to the justice of the Arkansas law, the Court simply holding that the evidence did not sustain the contention that the case was subject to Federal jurisdiction No opinion was issued on the confiscation phase of the controversy.... "

Business Conditions In a review of business conditions for the fiscal year, which ended on June 30, made public Nov.18, Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce, stresses the following: The country's economic progress through the advance in agricultural prices, which had lagged behind industry since the slump of 1920; the beginning of the economic recovery of Europe through sound policies adopted in the German reparation plan; the complete recovery of American industry and commerce, aside from agriculture, as well as the stability of prices, high production, full employment, expanding foreign trade and prosperity throughout business circles. With respect to present conditions since the close of the fiscal year, Secretary Hoover qualifies this only to the extent that "there were some moderate decreases in activity of some lines during the latter part of the fiscal year but since its close there has again been general recovery in those lines." According to Secretary Hoover "the outstanding event of the year was the improvement in agricultural prices." Of this he says: "The situation of agricultural prices may be well indicated by comparing September prices with the general level of commodity prices. Based upon 1913 as 100, the wholesale price index of all commodities was 149. The corresponding price index of No.1 Northern wheat was 148: of cotton (New York), 19; corn, 186, and hogs, 118. From the low point since the beginning of 1921 these figures represent recoveries; For wheat, of 37 points;, cotton, 99; corn, 111; hogs, 37. Many readjustments are needed yet, but agriculture has turned an important corner and this change marks a vital step in the whole after-war economic readjustment."

Coffee Price Drop A New York dispatch to the press of November 18 states that coffee prices in New York November 17 broke 2 cents a pound, the extreme limit allowed in one day's trading on the New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange and the most drastic decline in the last five years.

"Dawes Plan" Desired by China An Associated Press dispatch from New York November 18 states that a "Dawes Plan" for China, arranged by business men rather than diplomats, for presentation at an international conference soon to be called by China herself, was reported in New York financial circles to be taking tentative shape.

Forestry The New York Times of November 18 states that Professor T.Rafalski, who is in charge of the forestry department of one of the universities of Poland, has been making an inspection tour of the Adirondacks with W.G.Howard of the Conservation Commission, assistant superintendent of State forests, for the purpose of studying New York State's methods of forest protection

work. Professor Rafalski expressed himself as very much impressed with the measures taken to protect New York's forests from fire and tree diseases, particularly the fire observation station system. He said that Poland had no large nurseries like the one at Saratoga, but that each forest or forest district had a small one of its own located within a comparatively small area where planting is to be done and where only sufficient trees were raised to take care of the planting of that area.

Sugar

The Journal of Commerce for November 18 says: "With wholesale food prices irresistibly advancing it may be a slight satisfaction to the householder to know that his outlay for sugar will probably be less during the coming year than it has been during the present one. Sugar is one of the few big crops of which the new supplies will unquestionably much outstrip consumption on the present price basis, as the latest estimates of Willett & Gray for 1924-25 indicate a total world production about 2,300,000 tons in excess of the 1923-24 season. The interesting aspect of the situation from the European point of view is the fact that most of this enlarged output during the past year or two is due to the recovery made in the sugar beet areas of the Continent. Czecho-Slovakia, for example, is expected to double her production for 1924-25 as compared with 1922-23, while France will increase her output over 60 per cent. Russia, the Ukraine and Poland, are estimated to have crops yielding 910,000 tons, as compared with 495,000 tons in 1922-23. Not only has there been a very rapid recovery, moreover, in those countries in which the war dealt a severe blow to the cultivation of sugar beets, but there have been pronounced increases recently in the yields of other European countries, such as Italy, Spain, Denmark and Sweden, which before the war did not figure largely as sugar beet growers. As compared with the present crop year of 1923-24, in which beet sugar production in Europe and the United States reached 5,867,000 tons, the new beet sugar crop is expected to produce 7,856,000 tons. It is estimated that total sugar supplies, including both cane and beet, will amount to approximately 22,000.000 tons, a figure substantially exceeding the totals for the three pre-war years. This result is, however, attributable primarily to the increase which has occurred in the cane sugar output. Despite the rapid recovery in Europe, beet sugar growing has not yet regained its pre-war position, largely because of the much lower German production. The question which is of prime importance to European agriculture, in view of these figures, is what is likely to be the strength of future consumptive demand. Can the European farmer afford to come back to the cultivation of sugar beets on the pre-war scale with any assurance that the prices he can secure for his product will compensate him for his labor? The same question might be asked concerning the American grower of sugar beets if it were not true that what he can afford to do and how far he can proceed to go is a matter largely determined for him not by economic conditions but by tariffs. As matters are, supplies are of such size that prices of raw sugar are likely to drop precipitately when the new sugars reach the market....It may well be that within

a few years the world will be able to reach or even surpass consumption figures worked out on the hypothesis already referred to; but meanwhile a too rapid rate of recovery will work injury to agriculture by forcing prices down to unremunerative levels."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Nov.18: New York Round White potatoes sold at $1.05 to $1.15 sacked per 100 pounds in eastern cities; mostly 85¢ f.o.b. Rochester. Maine sacked Green Mountains ranged $1.05 to $1.40 in eastern markets; bulk stock 50 to 55¢ f.o.b. Presque Isle, Me. New York Danish type cabbage $12 to $18 bulk per ton, top of $20 in Pittsburgh; $8 to $10 f.o.b. Rochester. Midwestern yellow varieties of onions $1.50 to $2 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers; $1.40 f.o.b. West Michigan points. New York yellows $1.75 to $2.10 in eastern markets; $1.75 f.o.b. Rochester. West Virginia York Imperial apples mostly $4.50 per barrel in Pittsburgh. Best New York Baldwins sold at $5.50 in New York. Midwestern Jonathans mostly $7 to $8 in Chicago. Northwestern Extra Fancy Spitzenbergs mostly $3 to $3.25 per box.

Chicago hog prices closed at $9.50 for the top; bulk of sales $8.30 to $9.10; medium and good beef steers $6.50 to $11.50; butcher cows and heifers $3.10 to $11.00; feeder steers $4.25 to $7.00; light and medium weight veal calves $7.50 to $9.50; feeding lambs $12 to $14.85; fat lambs $13 to $14.65; yearlings $9.25 to $12.25 and fat ewes $5 to $8.50.

Grain prices quoted Nov.18: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.51 to $1.73. No.2 red winter Chicago $1.58 3/4; St.Louis $1.63 to $1.67; Kansas City $1.54 to $1.59. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.52 3/4; St.Louis $1.52 to $1.52 1/2; Kansas City $1.43 to $1.53. No.2 mixed corn Chicago $1.15 3/4; Minneapolis $1.13 3/4 to $1.15 3/4; Kansas City $1.06. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.17 1/2 to $1.18 1/2; Minneapolis $1.17 3/4; Kansas City $1.09. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.17 to $1.17 1/2; Minneapolis $1.13 3/4; to $1.16 3/4; No.2 white corn Chicago $1.15 3/4 to $1.16 1/2; Kansas City $1.06 to $1.06 1/2. No.3 corn (new) St.Louis $1.10 1/2. No.3 white oats Chicago 50 5/8 to 52 1/2; Minneapolis 49 to 49 1/2¢; St.Louis 53¢; Kansas City 52¢.

Spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 19 points, closing at 24.14¢ per lb. New York December future contracts up 25 points, closing at 24.28¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr.Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Nov.18,	Nov.17,	Nov.17,1923
20 Industrials	110.73	109.51	89.65
20 R.R.stocks	95.60	94.76	79.80

(Wall St.Jour.,Nov.19.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XV,no.44 Section 1 November 20, 1924

The President's Agricultural Commission

Before recessing Wednesday evening, the Agricultural Commission appointed by President Coolidge had progressed sufficiently far in its investigation to state that immediate attention would be given to cooperative marketing and the cattle industry and hopes to have definite recommendations to present during the coming short session of Congress on these two subjects and as many more as possible. Realizing that cooperative marketing is probably as important as anything in the agricultural field at the present time, the commission decided to give this subject immediate attention and have a decision to be presented to Congress at the winter session. Of equal importance is the emergency in the cattle industry and early recommendations will be made looking to stabilizing this branch of American agriculture. Among those who were called before the commission Wednesday for consultation were: Eugene Meyer, chairman of the War Finance Corporation; Henry C. Hall, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission; and O.C.Merrill, executive secretary of the Federal Power Commission. (Press, Nov.20.)

Forest Products Conference

President Coolidge sounded a note of warning yesterday against the "appalling waste" of the timber resources of the United States, and declared the time had arrived to lay the foundation of a far-reaching and effective effort for forest conservation. Addressing the National Conference on Utilization of Forest Products, at Washington, the President expressed the hope that out of its deliberations there would be evolved a program of specific action for timber-saving rather than a mere expression of ideas. He advocated a scientific policy of forest restoration, declaring that the American people, although bred to forest life, had not yet acquired the faculty of treating timber as a crop. He reminded his audience that against the 745,000,000,000 cubic feet of timber still standing in the United States there is an annual drain of 25,000,000,000 cubic feet, while the annual timber growth is only 6,000,000,000 cubic feet. Nearly 400 delegates, representing every branch of the lumber growing, manufacturing and consuming industries, were assembled when Howard M. Gore, Acting Secretary of Agriculture, called the meeting to order and introduced President Coolidge. The conference is being held under the Department of Agriculture, acting through the Forest Service.(Press, Nov.20.)

President Predicts Southern Prosperity

Hope for, and prediction of, continued industrial progress of the South are voiced in a letter from President Coolidge to Richard H. Edmonds of the Manufacturers' Record of Baltimore. The President's letter in part said: "The South's wonderful industrial development, the great progress it has made in utilizing its water power, and the impressive advance in the diversification of agriculture, have all wrought together for the firm establishment of the new era in the South. Whoever knows of that section's splendid resources in both natural endowment and the character of its citizenry must be confident that it will continue the progress already entered upon. I look for a great further advance in all the interests of the South in the next few years."

Section 2

Agriculture

Sioux City Live Stock Record for November 13 says: "Now come the implement dealers to add the weight of their testimony to the evidence that the condition of agriculture is improved and improving, says the Omaha Journal-Stockman. Farmers are not yet at the point where they can buy new farm machinery freely, but the dealers seem to believe that this time is not very far off. In the agricultural depression following the war the implement manufacturers and dealers were hit hard. Like the farmers, they looked and hoped for better times and now, in the language of one of the speakers of the meeting of Midwest Implement dealers in Omaha yesterday, 'the conditions we have been so long looking for are here.' Like all good business associations, the implement men have a well-equipped research department and the findings of this department in reference to the living condition of their customers, the farmers are both interesting and enlightening. 'Of every dollar expended by the farmer,' says the report of this department, '18 2-3 cents goes for food, 14 cents for clothing, 10 cents for taxes, 9 cents for feed, fertilizer, etc., 6 cents for payment on indebtedness, 6 cents for education, 4 cents for household supplies, 3 1-3 cents for farm equipment and 2 cents for investments. In the competition for the farmer's dollar, your principal competitors are the automobile, the phonograph, the radio and jewelry.' There is nothing particularly new or startling in this report. It is something we have all known and realized for some years. It is the spirit of the age and implement dealers as well as others may as well face the fact now as later that the farmers of the country are no longer mere clods, they are going to have some modern comforts and luxuries for themselves and their families or they are going to quit the farm and ranch. A new day is dawning for agriculture and the sooner the whole country comes to realize the fact the sooner people will adjust themselves to a condition in which the Nation's food producers demand and enjoy their share of the conveniences and culture of modern times."

Argentine Cotton

A Liverpool dispatch to the press of November 18 says: "'If the present crop of Argentine cotton is doubled, trebled or even increased much more than that, it would not be difficult to get a good price for it in Britain, particularly since it arrives at a period when good quality North American cotton is very scarce. It is certain that four or five times the amount handled this year, could have been sold easily.' This statement was made in a conversation with La Nacion's correspondent, by Alec Brown of the firm of Dennis & Brown, one of Liverpool's principal firms importing Argentine cotton. The statement was corroborated by various other merchants as well as spinners who esteem Argentine cotton very highly compared to Brazilian and Paraguayan. 'I am very optimistic regarding the prospects for Argentine cotton,' declared Mr. Brown. 'We have very good reports from all of our customers....'The farmers of La Plata should be encouraged to

purchase only the best quality seed and pay better prices for it, as it will pay them in the end and will assist greatly in building up a strong trade demand regardless of the growth of the Argentine export cotton trade.' Mr. Brown reiterated his belief that cotton will soon become one of the leading products of the La Plata country."

Business Situation

An editorial in The New York Times of November 19 says: "Many readers of Secretary Hoover's official review, for the Commerce Department, of the business situation in the United States during the fiscal year ended last June, will be surprised at his conclusions. His summary certainly departs far from the discouraging inferences drawn at that time by the business community. The view generally taken of our industrial situation between the middle of 1923 and the middle of 1924 was that the period marked fairly continuous reaction from the expanding movement which occurred in the spring of 1923--interrupted only by a very brief revival in the first month or two of the present year. Mr.Hoover does, it is true, point to a decrease in some lines of activity toward the end of the fiscal year (that is to say, in May and June), and some of his deductions are based on developments occurring since June, such as the great rise of grain prices during August and September. But his main conclusion is that, quite apart from the better farm conditions and the progress toward settling the German reparations problem, the fiscal year itself was marked by 'the complete recovery of our own industry and commerce, aside from agriculture, great stability of prices, high production, full employment and prosperity throughout the business world.' This must rest rather on 'average conditions' of the entire twelvemonth ended last June than on the precise industrial status of that month, for the position in June itself was not on its face by any means favorable. Our steel production at the end of June had fallen to a rate only 40 per cent of mill capacity, as against 90 last March and in June of 1923. Iron output in June was the lowest since mid-summer, 1922, and 40 per cent below that of March. Cotton consumed by our textile mills was less than in any month since 1920; average commodity prices were at the lowest of the year, and our foreign trade balance had turned to an import surplus. It will have to be admitted, therefore, that Mr. Hoover's description fits the earlier months of the fiscal year in question, or the four remarkable months which followed the end of June, rather than the period as a whole. Nevertheless, few will deny that it correctly pictures the present situation, and, furthermore, that it is useful in showing that the germs of the business recovery, which, if not now wholly arrived is at least under way, were present even four months ago. His statistical evidence shows that, with the 1919 average reckoned as 100, the country's manufacturing output averaged in quantity 115 in the fiscal year ended last June, as

against 116 in the year preceding and 88 in 1922. Railway freight carried in the period, based on the tons-per-mile unit, averaged 110; it was 109 in the fiscal year 1923 and 89 in 1922. Sales in the wholesale distributive trade worked out at 82, comparing with 80 the year before and 72 in 1922; sales of department stores at 128, against 120 and 109, respectively....."

Cooperative Marketing for Britain

T. Atholl Robertson, Member of Parliament, and author of the Reform Bill for Farmers, writes of that bill in The Nineteenth Century and After for November. He says in part: "In reviewing British farming generally at any time we are always confronted with the fact that, though the population of this island presents an enormous market for agricultural produce, much of what is consumed therein comes across the seas. The Scottish farmer could certainly have a much bigger share if he liked, for in parts ,as I have noted, the soil of Scotland grows more bushels to the acre than that of Canada. Why does he fail to obtain it? Primarily because he retains in certain directions, we insist, the narrow instincts of the unenlightened man, and further because he has been taught over the years, falsely, that the competition of outsiders is injurious both to himself and to the country. Despite the parliamentary fights which have been waged in his midst, he has never thoroughly grasped the great advantages which flow directly and indirectly from freedom of trade the world over, and so he has hitherto hoped unceasingly for the passage of a measure devised to protect him from foreign competition... Note the gain which would result from transport in bulk by a cooperative association. The steel trade can secure a flat rate per ton on the railways, the woolen trade a half-rate; but in this sphere of national transport our oldest and greatest industry has let itself be left utterly behind, out of all reckoning. Are our farmers going to be content to remain in so ignominious a position? All the evils and defects herein noted must be drastically dealt with if we are to hold up our heads manfully in sight of the generous gifts of nature,the cooperation of science, and ingenuity and energy of the farmers of other countries. Every post, as it were, brings us evidence that we can do this in ways and degrees which will correspond with our national repute in other spheres if we will only consent to organise ourselves in the cooperative fashion. If our farmers will set up trading companies in fairly wide areas, they can contribute their share of the capital in kind. It will be foolish not to acknowledge that certain recent experiments among us in this style have not been satisfactory in their outcome. But the reason for the ill-luck is not to be discovered in the principle of cooperation, but in ourselves; in our hereditary individuality, in our pride, in our ignorance, in our lethargy. We are simply at the moment in the apprenticeship stage of cooperation. Where the areas of these societies are inadequate to ensure their financial success

the areas must be enlarged and where the management is unsatisfactory the type of manager must be changed. The conditions emphatically demand that the people employed at headquarters or centre must be not decayed gentlemen or broken farmers, but thoroughly trained business men. The associations must put themselves into the hands of men of the type who now 'run' our big stores and multiple shops--alert men, men of imagination, men of previous experience in such business, who know where and how to turn in emergencies. Grant this form of organization, grant this style of manager, grant that we behave like men of an enlightened age and not like fossils belonging to a far-gone geological era, and grant that we get ourselves taxed on the land value alone and our buildings and improvements set free altogether from taxation; soon the farmer will find himself much better off than he is to-day, and finally blessing the pioneers whom he is at the moment mainly intent upon criticizing."

Dairymen as Bacon Producers

An editorial in The Breeder's Gazette for November 13 says: "Bacon hog production has been recommended to dairymen in the Chicago territory. It is pointed out that they can feed their skimmilk to bacon pigs, market their butterfat, and grow barley with which to finish their hogs. With skimmilk, barley and alfalfa or clover, grown on their own farms, they should be able to produce as good a quality of bacon as Denmark turns out for its British customers. The packers say that they need an increased supply of bacon hogs of the Danish or Irish type, in order to compete with Denmark for the British trade in this commodity. Whether they could secure that trade if the specified type of hog were produced cheaply and abundantly in this country we do not undertake here to discuss. We think it obvious, however, that the domestic demand for bacon, obtained from bacon hogs, is destined greatly to increase, and that it is likely within the next few years to warrant a marked increase in the production of bacon hogs in areas where, as in the Chicago fluid milk zone the principal conditions are favorable to economical production and marketing. Bacon hog raising would introduce into dairying the needed factor of diversification. It assuredly is one dairy-farm enterprise that deserves consideration by milk producers who, if compelled to quit the fluid milk business, desire to keep their herds and use their present equipment."

Stock Prices

The New York Times of November 19 says: "The stock market caught its second breath yesterday and in another swift upturn of stocks, in which 2,857,180 shares were dealt in, outran all yardsticks by which markets may be measured. The day's advance carried the industrial stocks up 1.25 per cent and the railroad stocks up .75 per cent, the entire market advancing exactly one point, which carried it through all previous tops. The high point of the average of fifty stocks, as quoted on the Stock Exchange, is above any figure in the record of averages which has been maintained by The New York Times every market day since 1911."

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Nov.19: Potatoes advanced 10 to 25¢ in Chicago, steady to firm elsewhere. Sacked Round Whites from New York closed at $1.05 to $1.15 per 100 pounds in eastern cities, top of $1.25 in Pittsburgh; 85¢ to 90¢ f.o.b. Rochester. Danish type cabbage generally $2 to $5 higher at $12 to $22 bulk per ton in eastern cities for New York stock; $10 to $12 f.o.b. Rochester. New York yellow varieties of onions sold at $1.75 to $2.10 sacked per 100 pounds for best stock in eastern cities; $1.75 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Baldwin apples steady at $5 to $5.50 per barrel in New York. Virginia York Imperials $5.25 to $5.50.

Chicago hog prices closed at $9.60 for the top and $8.50 to $9.30 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $6.35 to $11.60; butcher cows and heifers $3.00 to $11.00; feeder steers $4.25 to $7.50; veal calves $7.50 to $9.50.

Closing prices 92 score butter: New York 44¢; Chicago 43 3/4¢; Philadelphia 44¢; Boston 43¢.

Grain prices quoted Nov.19: No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.65 to $1.69; Kansas City $1.58. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.53 1/2; St.Louis $1.52; Kansas City $1.44 to $1.56. No.2 mixed corn Chicago $1.19 1/4; Minneapolis $1.17 to $1.18; Kansas City $1.07 1/4 to $1.09 1/2. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.20 to $1.22 1/2; Minneapolis $1.20 to $1.21; St.Louis $1.20; Kansas City $1.12 1/2. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.18 1/2 to $1.21 1/4; Minneapolis $1.15 to $1.19. No.2 white corn Chicago $1.19 to $1.20; St.Louis (new) $1.17; Kansas City $1.10 to $1.12. No.3 white oats Chicago 52 to 53 3/4¢; Minneapolis 49 1/4 to 49 1/2¢; St.Louis 54 to 55¢; Kansas City 52 1/2¢.

Spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 15 points, closing at 23.99¢ per lb. New York December futures up 7 points, closing at 24.35¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr.Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Nov.19,	Nov.18,	Nov.19,1923
20 Industrials	110.24	110.73	91.35
20 R.R.stocks	95.26	95.60	80.56

(Wall St. Jour., Nov.20.)

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DAILY DIGEST

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Vol.XV,no.45 Section 1 November 21, 1924

Forest Products Conference

The first national conference on utilization of forest products, called under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture to consider elimination of wood waste, November 20 concluded its two-day sessions after mapping out a permanent program and intrusting it to the central committee on lumber standards. This committee, which has been cooperating with the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce, for uniform methods in the industry, is representative of lumber manufacturers, distributors, wood-using industries, architects and engineers. The report of the conference's committee on permanent organization and program, appointed by Acting Secretary Gore, of the Agriculture Department, was adopted by unanimous vote. The conference directed that this committee continue and cooperate with the central committee, which will function under the program as "The Central Committee on Utilization of Forest Products." The program of activities, as adopted, calls for completion and general adoption and application of lumber standards as recommended by the central committee, and other economies, and encouragement of improvements and economies by organized industrial units consuming forest products. (Press, Nov.21.)

National Grange Proceedings

An Atlantic City dispatch to the press of November 21 states that the National Grange unanimously adopted a resolution at its convention at Atlantic City, November 20, supporting the proposed Federal Public Service Commission for the development of super-power plants to supply electric power and light at cost to rural communities. In another resolution, also unanimously adopted, the Grange "unalterably opposes any change in the new Immigration law which will let down the bars on the yellow race." The Grange resolutions committee emphasized "cooperation between organizations of business and Post Office officials to the end that more of business mail shall be sent out early in the day rather than at the closing of business hours." The same report pointed out the "dual economic systems" in the Nation. "The law of supply and demand," it said, "has been bridled and rendered inoperative by artificial measures of protection by bonus and by direct price fixing. The prices of the commodities the farmer must buy are fixed and sustained on the basis of high wages, high cost of production, interest on investment and profit. The farmer must sell his surplus crops in the markets of the world in competition with those produced with cheap labor in every land, and it is the market value of this surplus, as determined by world-wide law of supply and demand, that determines the domestic price--the price he is compelled to take for his produce." The Grange reported unusual success in the operation by farmers in two States of an automobile liability insurance company and mutual fire insurance company. Large rate savings were effected, it was said, as compared with the charges of the old line companies. The Grange voted to hold the next annual meeting at Sacramento, Cal., with Portland,Me., as the favorite for the 1926 session.(Press,Nov.21.)

Section 2

American-China Trade Sao-Ke Alfred Sze, Chinese Minister to the United States, is the author of an extensive article on American trade with China in The Country Gentleman for November 22. Mr. Sze says in part: "The expansion of our trade with the United States is of great importance to both countries, far greater than the money value of our present interchange would indicate. But even that is not inconsiderable, amounting, as it did, to $282,300,700 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1924. To China active commerce with the United States has been important as a help in improving her trade balance. For over a century the annual balance of trade with the rest of the world has been against China. This has acted as a constant drain upon our national finances and has made it increasingly difficult to maintain adequate credit in the world's markets. But our trade with the United States has consistently left a balance in our favor to the extent of about $15,000,000 a year for the past fifty years. For the fiscal year just closed our exports to the United States exceeded our American imports by $33,000,000. And Chinese trade is important to the United States because of the almost unlimited possibilities of expansion. China, with nearly one-quarter of the world's population, is showing a tendency toward industrialization. That means an expanding and ultimately enormous outlet for American machinery. China wants and will continue to need all sorts of machinery, iron and steel manufactures, electrical appliances, chemicals, dyes and drugs. In exchange for these goods China offers to the United States silks, hides, skins, furs, vegetable oils, wool, carpets, hair nets and laces....But machinery is one of the chief lines in which China's future imports are quite sure to expand. It behooves the United States, therefore, to plan systematically for a share in that market. In 1920 the United States furnished 55 per cent of China's machinery imports and Great Britain 21 per cent, but in 1922 the British supplied 43 per cent and Americans only 24 per cent. The whole field of trade between China and the United States is rich in opportunities. China still has much to learn about advertising and distributing her products in the United States. And American exporters may profitably spend greater efforts on a systematic study of Chinese markets for their goods."

Baking Merger Inquiry The organization of the Continental Baking Corporation, recently incorporated in Baltimore, which, it is said, contemplates merging several of the largest bread and cake baking companies in the United States, is being investigated by the Federal Trade Commission to determine whether any of the anti-trust laws are being violated, it was announced November 19. (Press, Nov.20.)

Chicago Cotton Market A Chicago dispatch to the press of November 20 says: "Chicago's new cotton market will open December 1, the directors of the Board of Trade have decided. The first month traded in on the Chicago market will be January. Many applications have been received, it was stated, from Houston

and Galveston warehouses for approval as regular places for storage and delivery of cotton on Chicago contracts."

Consumption and Prices

The Journal of Commerce for November 20 says: "Predictions of great prosperity to come and price 'boosting' have not by any means been confined to the stock market within the past few weeks. On the contrary, stock market 'bulls' are able to point to an improved sentiment pretty widely distributed throughout industry and trade, to a distinct enhancement of demand for goods in sundry lines and to a situation in not a few branches of business which appears, on the surface at least, to indicate a substantial improvement in the outlook for the future. Yet upon close analysis there is a good deal in current developments in business as distinguished from the stock market which ought to give careful observers pause. Recent trends and late developments in the iron and steel industry afford an excellent illustration of the nature of the outlook at the present moment. For some time past a markedly better demand for pig iron has been reported. But to a large extent mills have been buying pig iron on the hope and expectation of larger orders for the products to be manufactured from it rather than on the strength of orders on hand. More recently certain types of steel products have been bought distinctly more freely at substantially higher prices, but the bulk of the buying is being done either by middlemen who hope later to resell to actual consumers at higher prices or to a lesser extent by manufacturers who are for the most part acting on faith that business is to be distinctly better in the reasonably near future. What is true in the steel industry is likewise in evidence mutatis mutandis in a good many others, if not in all others. If the movement toward improvement is to continue to go forward in a sound manner, demand from ultimate consumers must be strengthened sufficiently to enlarge outlets for our goods or at the very least to enable manufacturers to dispose of undiminished production at substantially higher prices than those of the past year, since costs of production by and large are about as high as they ever were. Most of the current predictions concerning heavier demand are based on expectation of increased export trade or upon belief that rural sections will come into the market with much greater purchasing power. Any large and relatively permanent foreign demand for our goods may with certain rather limited exceptions be ruled out at once as highly improbable. At home some farmers who have been particularly hard hit for some years past are without question in possession of greater purchasing power due to better crops or higher prices or both. This is notably true of our wheat producers and one or two sections of the cotton belt. This is an encouraging fact, and the most has certainly been made of it. Yet equally true is it that a good many farmers, for instance those of the Carolinas, and many of those whose business is located in the corn belt are distinctly less favorably placed than they have been of late years. On the whole some increase in demand from rural sections is reasonably to be expected and that betterment will naturally make itself felt in the manufacturing districts which furnished the desired goods. But

the fact remains that for the past year or two consumption in this country has been at least reasonably large, and large or startling increases are hardly as a general thing to be expected. Can consumers be persuaded to maintain present rates of absorption if prices are 'jacked up'?"

Egg Classification An Atlantic City dispatch to the press of November 20 says: "National poultry experts, Government and private, addressed chicken farmers attending the New Jersey State Poultry Association Convention at Atlantic City, November 19. William F. Kirkpatrick, of the Storrs' Experiment Station, Connecticut, surprised the conventioners with the assertion that 'England is fifty years ahead of the United States in breeding poultry.' He stated that they obtained 15 per cent better hatches in England than in this country because of larger ranges, better breeding and less animal protein in the rations. The standardization of eggs, reducing the number of classifications from twenty to three, was urged by Robert Slocum of the Federal Bureau of Agricultural Economics."

Food Grain Shortage The Wall Street Journal for November 20 says: "A report of the British Consul General at Seoul to his Government shows that the bean and millet crops of Korea are about 15 per cent less than last year. Korea beans and millet do not count very much in the world's calculation of food supply or consumption, but this little item serves to call attention to a fact of unusual importance--that a shortage of food and feed grains extends around the world. The United States, which produced 75 per cent of the corn crop of the world, now has one of its smallest crops of recent years. With the exception of the United States the whole Northern Hemisphere also has less of all the food and feed grains than a year ago. This situation includes the rice eaters as well as those who live on bread. But the wheat and rye eating peoples are by far the greatest part of the world's population and the leaders of civilization, and it is in these grains that the shortage is greatest. Whenever there has been a shortage of food in any part of the world there has been sufficient somewhere else to avert a famine, provided transportation facilities were equal to the task of distribution. The United States this year is the world's chief almoner and Canada also has been depended upon to assist in the task of feeding the world. Canada will do this, but not to the extent formerly expected of it. A week ago this newspaper said that Canada might export 190,000,00 bushels of wheat. The Department of Agriculture of the United States now estimates Canada's exportable surplus at 180,000,000 bushels. Contrasted with the 343,000,000 bushels it exported last season this is a serious situation. North America in its entirety must feed the world until Argentina and Australia can take up the burden. Australia's surplus of old wheat is already cleaned out and Argentina now has only ten or twelve million bushels available. After the first of January their harvests should be the dominant factor in the market so

far as price making is concerned. For furnishing actual food to hungry people they will not count until early spring. By that time the surplus of the United States will be exhausted. Last year Argentina produced 247,000,000 bushels of wheat and predictions have been made that it would do as well this year. Drought and locusts, however, have affected the crop and now comes the first official preliminary estimates of 190,000,000 bushels. Last year Australia produced 126,000,000 bushels, and this season private estimates run all the way from 125,000,000 to 150,000,000. Even if the maximum is realized the shortage in Argentina can not be made up. Evidently Providence has decreed that the world must begin a new harvest season in the summer of 1925 with a minimum of food and feed grains in reserve."

Road Building

An editorial on "Progress in Sane Road Building" in The Wall Street Journal of November 18 says: "Those who, like railroad executives, have been rightly concerned over the provision at public expense of costly highways for the free use of commercial transportation agencies will take comfort from a report of the highway finance committee of the National Tax Association. Side by side with the almost incredible rise in the country's annual expenditures for highways, this report reveals a surprisingly rapid progress in shifting the burden from the general taxpayer directly to the user of the highways. In 1914, the committee says, Federal and State special taxes on motor vehicles did not exceed 5 per cent of total highway expenditure, but they reached 25 per cent in 1921 and 38 per cent in 1923, while this year the proportion is expected to exceed 45 per cent. As about 40 per cent of the total expenditure is borrowed, it is likely that direct user taxes will soon equal road expenditures from current tax receipts. This shifting process represents a reversal of the ordinary tendency in American taxation, which has been for many years away from the principle of special benefit assessment to that of ability to pay. The committee reasons soundly that the standing objections to the benefit principle have no application in this field, while the arguments in its favor apply here with peculiar force. Admitting the overwhelming necessity for widespread highway improvement, limited only by considerations of actual economic utility, businesslike application of funds and safe financing, it is still disquieting to read that total highway expenditures have increased from about $80,000,000 in 1904 to $240,000,000 in 1914 and $947,000,000 in 1921, around which level they still continue. The committee is of the opinion that the peak of annual expenditures has been reached, but that no substantial reduction can yet be anticipated. There is, however, no little comfort in the fact that standards of road construction have been rapidly improved in recent years and that competent engineers now hold that between 40 and 60 per cent of original road expenditure becomes, under adequate maintenance, a permanent investment. The report of this committee is one of a number of evidences that Federal, State and local authorities are seriously exerting themselves to develop a national road building program which shall be

sound in its fundamentals of finance, construction methods and location. Much remain to be done before that desirable end will be realized, but there is already a definite prospect that current taxation for highway purposes will soon have been placed where it belongs and that the States and minor subdivisions will hereafter limit their borrowing for such purposes closer to indispensable commercial and community facilities."

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Nov.20: Chicago hog prices closed at $9.75 for the top and $8.70 to $9.40 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $6.50 to $11.75; butcher cows and heifers $3 to $11; feeder steers $4.25 to $7.50; light and medium weight veal calves steady at $8 to $10.

New York sacked Round White potatoes closed at $1.05 to $1.15 per 100 lbs. 90¢ f.o.b. Rochester. New York Golden Self-blanching celery brought $2 to $3 per 2/3 crate in leading markets; mostly $2.25 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida Big Boston type lettuce sold at $2.75 to $3 per 1 1/2 bu. hamper in New York. New York Danish type cabbage advanced $4 to $7 closing at $15 to $22 bulk per ton in eastern cities, top of $25 in New York; $14 to $15 f.o.b. Rochester. New York yellow varieties of onions $1.65 to $2.10 sacked per 100 pounds in eastern cities; $1.80 f.o.b. Rochester. West Virginia York Imperial apples $4.50 in Philadelphia. Midwestern Jonathans $7.50 to $8 in Chicago.

Closing prices 92 score butter: New York 43 1/2¢; Chicago 44¢; Philadelphia 44¢; Boston 43¢.

Grain prices quoted November 20: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.48 to $1.69. No.2 red winter Kansas City $1.57 to $1.61. No.3 red winter Chicago $1.57. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.49 3/4 to $1.50; Kansas City $1.44 to $1.54. No.2 mixed corn Chicago $1.17 3/4; Minneapolis $1.15 1/2 to $1.16 1/2; Kansas City $1.09. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.19 to $1.20; Minneapolis $1.19 to $1.19 1/2; Kansas City $1.10. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.18 1/2 to $1.18 3/4; Minneapolis $1.14 1/2 to $1.17 1/2. No.3 white corn - Chicago $1.17 to $1.17 1/4; No.3 white oats Chicago 51 1/4 to 52 1/2¢; Minneapolis 48 1/8 to 48 7/8¢; Kansas City 52 1/2¢.

Spot cotton down 7 points, closing at 23.92¢ per lb. New York December future contracts down 55 points, closing at 23.80¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Nov.20,	Nov.19,	Nov.20,1923
20 Industrials	110.50	110.24	91.26
20 R.R.stocks	96.19	95.26	80.77

(Wall St. Jour., Nov.21.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XV,no.46 Section 1 November 22, 1924

Mr. Gore for Secretary of Agriculture

The press to-day states that Howard M. Gore, of West Virginia, will be appointed Secretary of Agriculture to serve until he becomes Governor of his State on March 4, it was officially announced yesterday at the White House. Mr. Gore has been Acting Secretary since the death of Secretary Wallace, but under the law his term as Acting Secretary will expire with the close of the month.

Cotton Reports and New York Market

The New York Times to-day states that the experiment of suspending trading on the New York Cotton Exchange for twenty minutes at the time of publication of the Government crop report will be continued, according to President Edward E.Bartlett jr., following the initial test yesterday. He said that it worked very satisfactorily in yesterday's market. "The closing of the exchange for five minutes before and fifteen minutes after the time of the Government report's release, in order to give the trade time to digest the figures, worked perfectly," said a statement by President Bartlett. "It was a great improvement over the old system and was well received by the brokers, and, so far as I heard, by the trade itself. The test was by no means a rigid one, however, owing to the fact that there was very little market change caused by the Government figures. It remains to be seen how the plan will work out in a case where the Government report compels radical readjustment in the market, as frequently happens."

National Grange Convention

An Atlantic City dispatch to the press to-day says: "'Any program for tax reduction which Congress may undertake should be approached with the full knowledge that agriculture is bearing more than its just share of taxation and should, therefore, receive its full measure of any contemplated relief.' This was declared at Atlantic City, November 21, by the National Grange. At the closing session of its fifty-eighth annual meeting the statement was contained in a resolution relative to taxation, unanimously adopted...With the exception of representatives from three States, the Grange voted unanimously in opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment prohibiting child labor. The three States favoring such an amendment were Washington, Oregon, and Missouri....

The Department of Agriculture was asked to take vigorous steps toward effecting cooperative marketing and to balance production with consumption. That the public receive larger representation on the Railroad Labor Board was also urged. The Grange voted to ask the Tariff Commission to make cost production surveys, the information to be made available for farmers. Other resolutions adopted by the Grange favored a non-partisan ballot for use in municipal elections, opposed lowering of tariff rates on agricultural products, indorsed the Federal farm loan system, advocated strict law enforcement and opposed the transfer of any bureaus from the United States Department of Agriculture to the Department of Commerce."

Section 2

Coffee Prices

A New York dispatch to the press of November 21 states that coffee prices November 20 broke 1 1/2 cents to almost 2 cents a pound, when Brazilian interests entered the local market offering concessions of a cent a pound below November 19 quotations. The decline brought the price of coffee for March delivery to 17.40 cents a pound, more than 5 cents below the high record established on November 11. Spot coffee declined 2 cents.

Deer Restriction

A dispatch from Flagstaff, Ariz., to the press of November 21 says: "The vast wilderness of the Kaibab forest, its plateau dotted by thousands of deer, has been opened to hunters, according to a message received November 20 from Sheriff W. A. Campbell, who is in the forest. The hunters carry Federal permits authorizing them to kill three deer in the game preserve created by Roosevelt in 1906 as a part of the Forest Service's plan to thin out the great herd. Officers of Coconino County, Arizona, who voiced disapproval of the Federal plan, are prepared to institute court action against hunters who leave the Kaibab with slain deer for violation of a State law against possession of deer out of season."

Farm and Industry

The New York Times of November 20 states that an alliance between industry and agriculture to combat those who seek to undermine American institutions was announced November 19 at the twenty-eighth annual convention of the National Founders' Association at New York. William H. Barr, president of the organization, in telling of the new movement, said: "During the past few months your president and his associates have been actively engaged, with the assistance of Henry Harrison Lewis of Washington, in perfecting a plan to bring about direct and practical cooperation between all industry and agriculture. Negotiations conducted with farm leaders representing the largest and most influential agricultural organization in the country, the National Grange, have resulted in the inauguration of a movement of vital importance to the entire Nation....The new movement, which is happily called 'Better Understanding Between Industry and Agriculture,' will, as a part of its activities, provide farm leaders as speakers at industrial conventions, and industrial leaders as speakers at farm meetings, local, State and national...."

Freight Rates

Freight rates on citrus and deciduous fruits, cantaloupes and melons, dried fruit, coffee, canned goods and preserves, and fresh or green vegetables from California to Virginia, Minn., were held by the Interstate Commerce Commission November 20 to be unreasonable and prejudicial to Virginia. The rates were found to exceed the rates contemporaneously in effect to Duluth,Minn. The Duluth rate basis was prescribed by the commission for use in the future.(Press,Nov.21)

Fur Trade of Canada

A survey of the fur trade of Canada, published in a bulletin of the Canadian Pacific Railway, shows that although in the past she has been the greatest producer of skins for the other countries of the world, she has, until the present, because of the severity of the climate, been compelled to retain a substantial amount of the annual catch herself, or buy it back in the manufactured state. According to the bulletin, in 1922, Canada imported raw or partially manufactured furs to the extent of $8,020,279, of which imports from the United States amounted to $6,679,430. These were, in the main, skins of animals not indigenous to Canada. Her import of manufactured furs in the same period--muffs, cloaks, coats and other articles--amount to only $117,858, of which $87,515 was accountable to the United States. In the same year Canada exported raw and partially manufactured furs to the extent of $16,798,247, the United States accounting for $12,091,370; the United Kingdom for $4,586,441, and other countries for $120,436. The export of the manufacturers of furs totaled $77,847, of which $30,068 worth went to the United States, $17,210 to the United Kingdom, and $21,568 to all other countries. (Press, Nov.18.)

Mortgage Indebtedness

The Journal of Commerce for November 21 says: "In its annual sessions at Atlantic City the National Grange again calls attention to the greatly increased and really burdensome mortgage indebtedness of the farmers of this country. It does not, as far as can be learned from press accounts, go much into the matter of the reasons for the growth in the indebtedness of the agricultural producers of the Nation, but it is very sure that some means of relief should be found. Two university professors of agricultural subjects in a recently published book express the opinion that the reason that so many of our young farmers are now unduly burdened with long-term debts is that they were born at the wrong time, or in more prosaic language they entered the business of agriculture as owners of land at a time when prices were abnormal and were forced to burden their land with large mortgage indebtedness or else refrain from land ownership at that time. Just why they could not have shown good judgment, delayed their purchases and remained tenants or even farm hands until land could be bought at better prices is not clear. The truth is, of course, that so many of our farmers are now unduly burdened with this class of debt for the simple reason that they did not look before they leaped--much the same cause that brings forth undue indebtedness in any line of business. Reiteration of the cause of the trouble may not help its removal very much, but those causes ought not to be overlooked lest the offense against sound business principles continue. The farmer can not physically be born again, but he can undergo a spiritual and intellectual regeneration. Organizations like the National Grange ought to do all that they can to promote such a new birth."

Muscle Shoals Power The Government, through the President, has the authority to sell power developed by Wilson Dam at Muscle Shoals, according to a decision of the Judge Advocate General of the Army, it was announced November 20 by Secretary Weeks. (Press, Nov.21.)

Potash Production Manufacturers Record for November 20 says: "The American Chemical Society puts itself on record in favor of the fullest development of the potash industry of this country in preference to depending upon Europe for our potash supply. This is the position which the Manufacturers Record has constantly taken, and had it not been for the suicidal policy of refusing to put an adequate protective tariff on potash this home industry would not have been given such a deadly blow for the benefit of German potash. The Nation appealed to the business men during the war to develop the potash industry as a by-product or in any other way possible. Millions of dollars were invested and we were beginning to create a substantial potash industry, but then came the blow that well nigh destroyed this industry by refusing a protective tariff..."After quoting from a report of Dr. J.W.Turrentine,of the Bureau of Soils, the editorial continues: "In addition to the sources of supply mentioned in this statement, it must be remembered that there are indications of vast stores of potash in Texas and New Mexico. It is believed by some able geologists that the supply there is larger than that of Germany and France combined; but experimental exploration work is necessary to prove these surmises. At the last session of Congress a bill was introduced asking that the Government spend $500,000 a year in exploration work, on the theory that if an ample supply of potash could be found in New Mexico and Texas it would be worth many millions of dollars annually and could be made to enrich our farms, increasing their productivity per acre and reducing the cost of farm products, thus benefiting the farmers and the consumers alike."

Potato Rates Freight rates are not the controlling factor in the prices of potatoes, and are such as to allow the wide distribution at centers of population far distant from the areas of production, the Bureau of Railway Economics announced November 19 as a result of a general survey of the potato-growing and marketing industry. The survey, the bureau announced, shows that potato prices paid to the farmer have fluctuated as much as 225 per cent of the minimum price although the freight rates remained unchanged. The bureau also found that the price of potatoes in potato growing areas, is frequently higher than the prevailing prices in cities far removed from the production centres. (Press, Nov.20.)

Rice Production An editorial in Manufacturers Record for November 20 says: "One of the most important industries of Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas is the cultivation of rice. This has drawn to Louisiana thousands of farmers from the Far West, Iowa especially, who were formerly engaged in wheat growing. Some

years ago they found a more attractive proposition in raising rice in Louisiana and moved there in great numbers. The consumption of rice in this country is so triflingly small per capita as compared with European and Oriental countries that the rice growers and rice millers of Louisiana and the Southern Pacific Railway Company have been working aggressively to bring about increased rice consumption, not merely for the good of the producers but for the good of the consumers as well, since rice is recognized as superior in nutrition and in ease of digestion to almost any other food produced. A part of this campaign has been a plan to develop the use of rice as a breakfast food, in competition with wheat, oats, corn and other cereal breakfast foods. Remarkable testimonials to the value of specially prepared breakfast foods of rice have recently been given by some of the noted dietetic specialists of the country. If the consumption of rice as a breakfast food or as a dinner dish, or in any other form, can be largely increased, the prosperity of a very large section of Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas will be made to grow apace."

Timber Problem

In an editorial on the figures quoted by President Coolidge, in his address before the forest products conference, November 19, The Washington Post of November 21 says: "It would be folly to ignore the significance of those figures; or to ignore, either, the magnitude of the calamity which their fulfillment would bring upon us. It would be equal folly to neglect the obvious means of averting such a catastrophe. It ought to be possible materially to decrease the figures which represent consumption, especially by prevention of waste in the cutting and use of lumber, and of destruction of forests by fires. It is certainly possible greatly to increase the figures which represent new growth. There are millions of acres of land now lying vacant and idle, which might profitably be planted in forests. We must learn, as the President says, to grow trees just the same as any other crop. In such fashion the ominous gap between growth and consumption can be bridged and the invaluable timber resources of the country be perpetuated. And the more promptly and systematically and energetically the Nation takes up the work, the more easily can it be accomplished."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in Garden Magazine and Home Builder for December says: "The restrictions of horticultural quarantine are being felt in industries other than those of the ornamental plant grower and collector and, while there can be no opposition to a principle of direct quarantines against specific diseases and insects, it surely would seem that some reasonable method of administration might be devised that would not completely strangle the collector's efforts. As has been frequently pointed out, the Federal Horticultural Board makes a ruling and decides on all arguments that may be brought against it. It has been suggested that an amendment be made to the act of 1912 that would provide for a review board of five members who shall pass on the justice of any proposed embargo

with the hope that the plaintiff appearing before such a court would have a hearing on appeal that is the constitutional right of even the most determined criminals before being sentenced."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Nov.21: New York sacked Round White potatoes mostly $1.05 to $1.15 per 100 pounds, top of $1.35 in Pittsburgh; 85¢ to 95¢ f.o.b. Rochester. Maine sacked Green Mountains $1.25 to $1.40 in New York; bulk stock 50 to 55¢ f.o.b. Presque Isle.

New York cabbage, Danish type $5 to $10 higher at $20 to $25 bulk per ton in leading markets; $7 higher at $14 to $15 f.o.b. Rochester. New York yellow varieties of onions $1.85 to $2.10 sacked per 100 pounds in Baltimore; $1.75to $1.80 f.o.b. Rochester. Golden self-blanching celery from New York was a moderate demand at $2.25 to $2.75 per 2/3 crate in city markets, top of $3.25 in New York; mostly $2.25 f.o.b. Rochester.

Chicago hog prices closed at $9.60 for the top and $8.75 to $9.30 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $6.50 to $11.75; butcher cows and heifers $3.15 to $11.00; feeder steers $4.25 to $7.50; veal calves $8.00 to $10.00.

Closing prices on 92 score butter; New York 44 1/2¢; Chicago 45 1/4¢; Philadelphia 44¢; Boston 44¢.

Grain prices quoted Nov.21,1924: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.48 to $1.70. No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.64 to $1.67; Kansas City $1.55 to $1.59; No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.50 to $1.50 1/2; St.Louis $1.49; Kansas City $1.43 to $1.52. No.2 mixed corn Chicago $1.14 1/4; Minneapolis $1.11 3/4 to $1.12 3/4;Kansas City $1.05 to $1.07. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.16 1/2 to $1.18 1/2; Minneapolis $1.15 1/4 to $1.15 3/4; Kansas City $1.10 1/2. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.16 to $1.17 1/2; Minneapolis $1.10 3/4 to $1.13 3/4; St.Louis $1.15. No.3 white corn Chicago $1.14 1/4 to $1.15 1/2; St.Louis $1.11. No.3 white oats Chicago 51 to 52 1/2¢; Minneapolis 48 1/4 to 48 1/2¢; St.Louis 52 1/2 to 53¢; Kansas City 51¢. No.2 white corn Kansas City $1.08 1/2 to $1.09.

Spot cotton down 29 points, closing at 23.63¢ per lb. New York December future contracts down 10 points, closing at 23.70¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Nov.21,	Nov.20,	Nov.21,1923
20 Industrials	109.63	110.50	92.17
20 R.R.stocks	95.77	96.19	81.45

(Wall St. Jour., Nov.22.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XV, no.47 Section 1 November 24,1924

Cotton Reports and the Market

A New Orleans dispatch to the press to-day says: "The experiment tried out on Friday in the two American cotton markets of suspending business for a limited period immediately before and after the reception of the Government crop report appeared to have accomplished all that was expected of it. It undoubtedly did away with the excited and frenzied trading with wild fluctuations which has accompanied the announcement of official reports in the past, and many expressions of approbation were heard on the New Orleans Exchange floor on Friday. Whether this experiment will develop into a permanent custom remains to be seen. Judging by the results on Friday, it is expected that the temporary suspension of trading for a brief period will be adopted as a permanent measure, both at New Orleans and New York."

Rates on Cotton

The press to-day states that according to advices from the South, considerable importance is attached to the recent action of the Interstate Commerce Commission in establishing a rail and water rate on cotton shipped from Oklahoma points to Atlantic seaboard territory, 4 cents per 100 pound under the existing all-rail rate. It is expected as a result of this adjustment of the rate that a large amount of Oklahoma cotton will henceforth be shipped through Galveston. It was on the basis of this adjustment, reported favorably in a previous decision, on which carriers were successful in gaining a reargument, that the Oklahoma Cotton Growing Association, a farmers' cooperative body, was induced to select Galveston as a central market for its business. Retention of that business is thereby assured, in addition to the prospect of attracting Oklahoma cotton from other sources to Galveston for concentration and shipment. The present all-rail rate from Oklahoma common points to Lowell, Mass., is $1.54 per 100 pounds; the present rail and water rate through Galveston is $1.67 1/2, which is reduced to $1.50 under the commission's ruling. Rates to other New England milling centres run in about the same proportion.

Europe's Crop Shortage

A London dispatch to the press of November 24 says: "Europe's crop shortage, although tending to delay recovery, is not generally regarded here as serious enough to offset improving conditions now noticeable." A Vienna dispatch says: "The European crop shortage inspires serious anxiety throughout Middle Europe. This is especially so in Austria, where three-fourths of the grain required for normal consumption must be derived from imports. Hungary alone, which produces more wheat than it consumes, is in a cheerful frame of mind, hoping to profit from the shortage elsewhere."

Bread Price in France

A Paris dispatch to the press to-day states that the Prefect of the Seine Department November 22 signed a decree raising the price of bread to 1 franc, 49 centimes per kilo, effective to-day. This is the highest point reached for the price of bread in Paris since the siege of 1870.

Section 2

Agricultural Industry

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal of November 22 says: "In an interesting editorial the New York Tribune spoke of the railroads and steel as 'our greatest industries.' Had the Tribune said that these were among the great industries it would have been more correct and have answered its purpose. It was an editorial slip to which all newspaper writers are liable. It serves to call attention to the magnitude of some of the industries on which our business is founded. There is news to be extracted still from the census of 1920. The undisputed giant of American industry is farming. The total valuation of all farm property given there is $77,920,000,000. Compare this to the valuation of under $19,000,000,000 for the railroads taken by the Interstate Commerce Commission as a basis for rate-making. Farm property increased 90 per cent since the census of 1910 which in turn showed 100 per cent more than the valuation of 1900. Farming includes some departments, dairying, for instance, whose gross return ranks well with the largest manufacturing interests in this country. Turning to strictly manufacturing business, it would immediately be asked, on what basis is greatness to be estimated? Is it to be in the value of the finished product, or the quantity of raw materials consumed, or the amount that is added to the raw material by manufacture? Here are several interpretations of 'greatness.' An industry that consumes the most raw material in proportion to its output is meat packing. It takes from the farms and ranges livestock worth $3,783,000,000 and puts on the market a finished product worth $4,246,000,000. The difference of $463,300,000 added by processing is only about 12 per cent, out of which wages, fixed charges and profits must come.....Iron and steel, steel works and rolling mills show an output in the census of $2,829,000,000, closely followed by automobile, foundry and machine shop products, cotton goods and flour milling. Each of these has an output of more than $2,000,000,000. For added value to raw material the foundry and machinershop products easily make the best showing, taking materials worth $948,000,000 and making them into goods worth $2,289,250,000. On such a showing might not this be considered the most important manufacturing industry? Our national industrial plant is a large one. In 1919 it took $37,350,000,000 worth of raw materials and made them into finished goods worth $62,418,000,000. This difference of $25,000,000,000 added by manufacturing was the reward of labor and capital, the former taking the lion's share. In this way it may be said that the manufacturing industry really contributes more than farming to the support of the people. Even this limited discussion is bristling with morals which any citizen of tolerable intelligence can draw. One point is that America must continue a phenomenal rate of production to hold her position among the most prosperous nations of the earth and to afford the luxury of those destructive agitators who would throw a monkey-wrench into the machinery."

Agriculture for British Women

The Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture (London) for November contains a lengthy article on day courses in agriculture for women, by Miss E. H. Pratt, of the Ministry of Agriculture.

She says in part: "Women have a big stake in the industry of agriculture, though the importance of their direct and indirect interest is insufficiently appreciated. The returns for 1923 (a year when conditions had returned more or less to normal, after the temporary expansion during the war) showed that 59,000 women and girls were in regular work on the land, while 43,000 were casually employed. There are, too, a number of women in business on their own account as farmers and market gardeners, and there are others engaged in agricultural instruction....While agricultural organizers make every effort to meet any specific request for lectures or courses, elementary agricultural instruction, as far as women are concerned, shows little advance on the position of 10 years ago. In one county, however, there is a pioneer effort to record. Since 1920 there have been held, in the county of Derby, a series of successful day classes for farmers' daughters. In organizing these courses, Mr. Bond, the agricultural organizer, has been inspired by two leading principles. He considers that, as a partner in the farm or the holding, the women needs, with some slight modification, an agricultural education co-extensive with that of the man. He also believes that if women are once personally convinced of the usefulness of every form of agricultural education they will induce their fathers, brothers and husbands to make use of expert advice and will see to it in time to come that their children have the benefit of such training. The agricultural instruction of women is, therefore, the surest way of establishing an agricultural community with a belief in the value of education."

Baking Merger

The Northwestern Miller for November 19 says: "A few days ago there was chartered under the laws of Maryland a company to be known as the Continental Baking Corporation, with a capital stock of six million shares, presumably to be worth, now or at some future time, the sum of six hundred million dollars. The announced purpose of the spokesmen for the organization is to create a super-consolidation of bakeries through exchange of shares of the new company for those of a number of the bakery mergers effected within the past few years....There is no place in the business of baking the country's bread for a corporation with six hundred million dollars capital, and plants and distribution system extending from coast to coast. Even if the men in control of its policies were idealists, which they most assuredly are not, nothing could be more threatening to the Nation's economic and political welfare than to have control of the fundamental food exercised by a single group of men. At their best, combinations in other industries have sometimes served the public good; at their worst, none of them has undertaken directly to interfere with the free distribution, under fully competitive conditions, of the fundamental food--bread."

Britain Cancels Russian Treaties

A London dispatch to the press of November 22 states that Austen Chamberlain, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, November 21, formally denounced the two treaties with the Russian Soviets concluded by Ramsay MacDonald and

Arthur Ponsonby while the former was Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary in the late Labor Government. At the same time the Foreign Secretary replied to the Soviet on the Zinovieff letter, declaring the Government's belief that the letter was no forgery and taking the Moscow authorities to task for their failure to check the propaganda activities of the Communist International.

Farm Indebtedness

An editorial in Providence Journal of November 21 says: ".. The conspicuous fact is that what has been offered in the relief measures has been increased facilities for enabling the farmer to get into debt. The first step to this end was the institution of the Federal mortgage banks. The Land Bank system was expressly designed to accommodate on easy terms the farmer who sought to relieve himself from a floating obligation, or desired to expand his property--or to speculate in agricultural land. From this was developed other loaning machinery, until we came to the 'intermediate credit' banks which invited the farmer to borrow on his promissory note. There exists to-day a complete banking equipment functioning expressly to meet agricultural needs, or supposed needs, under the auspices of a paternal Government--borrowing needs, that is, not saving needs. The whole course of legislation has been not in the direction of thrift but to make the acquisition of money by the farmer quick and easy. It is not surprising that farm indebtedness has been growing at an unprecedented rate under the tempting arrangement."

Farm Machinery Sales

The recent improvement in economic conditions in the agricultural sections have brought an increased demand for agricultural implements and machinery, according to advices in the financial district Nov.18. Reports were received from Chicago that sales of the International Harvester Company have increased in the last two months, and big improvement was recorded in the tractor branch of the industry. (N.Y.Times,Nov.19.)

Farm Mortgage Rates In Canada

The Grain Growers' Guide (Winnipeg) for November 12 says: "There is much private money loaned on farm mortgages in Ontario, at rates, we are informed, varying from 6 per cent downwards, with some as low as 5 per cent. Some of the companies who loan on Ontario farms at 6 1/2 and 7 per cent, also loan on prairie farms, where the prevailing rates are 8 and 9 per cent. Here is room for improvement. No other business could pay such rates and live; why should agriculture be compelled to carry such a burden?"

German Finances

An editorial in The New York Times for November 22 says: "Owen D. Young, who contributed to the framing of the Dawes plan and who took up the task of putting it into operation, has returned from Europe with the good news that German revenues have far exceeded the estimates. He adds that, if that portion of the German loan destined to help defray the first year's dharges on reparations be included, Germany has already enough money on hand to meet the first year's payment falling due next August. The machinery of the Dawes plan is functioning smoothly, and

S.Parker Gilbert jr., who has succeeded Mr. Young as Agent General for Reparations, has the cooperation of all the nations concerned... Aside from the evidence which Mr. Young brings of the success of the Dawes plan, it is encouraging to be reassured that Germany not only is beginning to get back on her feet, but is also approaching the task of meeting her obligations in a resolute manner. Nothing will so help European recovery as trustworthy evidence of Germany's sincere desire to 'make good'. Incidentally, nothing will so much help Germany."

Ocean Freights

The widespread effects of equalization of ocean freights from Atlantic and Gulf ports,-concerning which arguments will be heard by the Shipping Board on November 25,-are pointed out in a bulletin issued to-day by the department of transportation and communication of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. This bulletin attempts only to state clearly and impartially the positions taken before the Shipping Board. "The Shipping Board's action", the department says, "is a matter which, while of interest primarily to the port and shipping interests concerned, is also of importance to the interior of the country. It may affect the routing of their export trade. It may have an important influence in furthering or retarding the development of the privately owned merchant marine." Explaining the nature of the controversy, in which the port cities of the Atlantic and Gulf seaboards are involved, the department outlines the methods by which ocean rates are determined by so-called conferences. (Press Statement, Cham.of Com. of U.S.,Nov.24.)

Tobacco Marketing

The Louisville Courier-Journal of November 19 says: "The Courier-Journal does not doubt the sincerity of the men who met at Lexington this week and voted for a 'cut-out' of the Burley tobacco crop next year. But it does doubt their wisdom. For it knows that they can not effect a cut-out by voting for it. It knows that they can not commit their sections to such a program; that they do not represent the full mass of the tobacco growers for whom they would like to speak and have no power to commit them to such an undertaking. It knows that even if the facts were otherwise and they could bind all the Burley growers of their districts to that plan, it would nevertheless be impracticable; that inevitably they would merely tempt others who are not now growing tobacco to take it up and profit at the expense of those faithful to their obligations to raise no tobacco next year. The Courier-Journal knows, further, that if this cut-out project could succeed to a far greater degree than there is any possibility of its succeeding it would play into the hands of the tobacco buyers. They would be glad to see this proposed cut-out project carried through. They know that there would be plenty of tobacco for them outside of the cooperative pool and that the cooperative association would suffer a blow which would demoralize it if it did not kill it. The Courier-Journal has sympathy for the motives which prompted members of the Fayette County Farmers' Union and other growers to propose a 'cut-out' as a remedy for conditions which last summer they believed themselves to be facing. There is no questioning the fact that a 100 per cent 'cut-out', if it could be conducted

harmoniously and effectively, without disturbing economic conditions and without danger to the Burley Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association, would afford the tobacco planters a splendid opportunity to demonstrate how diversified farming pays. However, as the situation stands to-day, the 'cut-out' movement is fraught with grave danger. In the first place, nature has largely come to the rescue of the Burley growers. Last spring's prospects have not materialized....Any movement for a 'cut-out' on the part of Kentucky growers will be the signal for doubled production in other States--even in localities not now growing the weed. Georgia, Tennessee and Missouri farmers have been encouraged by the 'Big Four' tobacco corporation interests to try Burley, and if the 100,000 poolers and others in Kentucky should quit, they might find it harder to resume their place as the chief tobacco producers...."

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

For the week ended November 22: Potatoes generally firm. New York sacked Round Whites mostly $1.10 to $1.16 per 100 pounds in eastern cities; 85¢ to 90¢ f.o.b. Rochester. Maine sacked Green Mountains ranged $1.15 to $1.40 in eastern markets; bulk stock 50 to 55¢ f.o.b. Presque Isle, Me. Onions steady to stronger. New York yellow varieties sold at $1.75 sacked per 100 pounds Rochester. Northern Danish type cabbage $14 to $18 in Chicago; $15 f.o.b. Kenosha, Wisc. Golden self-blanching celery from New York brought $2.25 to $2.75 per 2/3 crate in a few markets; mostly $2.25 f.o.b. Florida Big Boston type lettuce sold at $2.25 per crate in New York. Apple markets dull. Best New York Rhode Island Greenings sold at $7 per barrel in New York. Northwestern Extra fancy Spitzenbergs $2.85 to $3.25 per box.

Chicago hog prices ranged from 15¢ to 50¢ lower than a week ago, closing at $9.50 for the top and $8.40 to $9.10 for the bulk. Feeder steers 25¢ higher, fat cows and heifers 15 to 25¢ lower; vealers weak to 50¢ lower at $8 to $9.

Butter markets firmer and higher during week. Principal feature was continued scarcity of fine grades. Greater interest in storage butter and withdrawals heavy. Foreign situation about steady with trading slow. Closing prices 92 score butter: New York 45¢; Chicago 46 to 46 1/2¢; Philadelphia 45¢; Boston 44¢. Cheese markets steady to firm with rather light volume on to-day's markets. Wholesale prices on Wisconsin primary markets Nov.21: Flats 19 1/4¢; Single Daisies 19 3/4¢; Double Daisies 19 1/4¢; Longhorns 19 3/4¢, Square Prints 21¢.

Grain market firm at about last week's level. Wheat futures fractionally higher than week ago after week of sagging prices. Good export demand and reports smaller Argentine crop were strengthening influences. Mills buying wheat more freely account more active flour trade and cash corn moving readily after price decline. Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 81 points during the week, closing at 23.62¢ per lb. New York December future contracts declined 101 points, closing at 23.65¢.(Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

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Chicago Cotton Market

A Chicago dispatch to the press of November 25 states that final plans were made November 24 at conferences for the opening on the Chicago Board of Trade Monday of the new cotton market. "Point of delivery on Chicago contracts is the Houston-Galveston basis, and the contract is based on Texas or Western cotton," said S.P.Arnol, executive vice president of the board. The new exchange will function under the United States Cotton Futures act. The contract unit will be 100 bales, approximately 50,000 pounds of cotton. Quotations will be in cents and hundredths of a cent a pound. One one-hundredth of a cent, or 1 point on 100 bales equals $5. One cent or 100 points on 100 bales equals $500.

Grain Shipment Embargo

The New York Times to-day states that the Reading Company has put an embargo on grain shipments for Europe. This is the first time in several years that an embargo was placed on grain for abroad by one of the eastern railroads. Elevators along the Reading lines are filled, all the room on the storage tracks has been taken and future shipments to the Philadelphia terminal of this company will have to be regulated by the outlet. Traffic executives said yesterday that this did not mean that the eastern ports of the United States would not be able to handle the business which had been thrust upon them in recent weeks. On account of the higher prices and the demand from abroad there has been a rush to market wheat earlier than usual. As the result the grain movement which threatened to swamp the Duluth terminals several weeks ago is now pouring through New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore in large quantities.

Milk Price in New York

The New York Times of November 24 states that there will be no advance in the price of milk in December, according to an announcement made November 23 by the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association, Inc., the figure remaining at $3.07 per 100 pounds for 3 per cent grade. The prices in some of the surplus grades, however, will be slightly higher than the November rates.

National Wool Exchange

A Helena, Mont., dispatch to the press of November 24 states that plans for the organization of the National Wool Exchange, composed of western wool growers, livestock owners and bankers are under way. The exchange will provide for the marketing of Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and other western wools, with headquarters in Helena and sales offices and warehouses in the East. It will be organized under the laws of Delaware, with a capitalization of $200,000, succeeding the National Wool Warehouse and Storage Company, which is being liquidated.

Section 2

Agricultural Commission

Sioux City Live Stock Record for November 21 says: "It is not at all hard to agree with intimations from Washington that the cattle business of the country is in a deplorable condition. We of the great farm and range sections of the country are painfully aware of this condition. But, what is this commission recently appointed by President Coolidge going to do about it? To a very large extent the immediate present condition of the market for all but a very few prime beeves, is as deplorable as it has ever been seen--but it is a condition brought about very largely by an unnatural season. Is this commission going to recommend/ to Congress that it take on the job of regulating nature by statute? In very large sections of the cattle producing countries there is a veritable epidemic of effort to get out of cattle and into sheep--about as fallacious an idea as could be conjured up. Is this commission going to be able to hold sheep prices when a large part of the pasture area of the country becomes dotted with sheep instead of cattle? How about reduction of production? You will perhaps have a concrete example of this before another year rolls around. The wheat crop of this year has sold at alluring prices. How much of an increased acreage will be harvested next summer, assuming that we have approximately normal weather from now until the harvest of next year? We have not the increased acreage of winter wheat at hand, but it runs into millions of acres. Furthermore, on the same pages with Washington news of the commission recommending reduced acreage of crops may be found proposed reclamation projects that are to be brought into Congress for action. The cattle situation, it is reported, is to be made the first inquiry and recommendation of the commission. We have had several schemes during recent years to regulate the flow of cattle into markets--and, by so doing, stabilize prices. The only things the efforts have so far done have been in the way of organization and assessment--and the very man who was picked to represent the cattle interests is one who advocates, or has advocated, going back 75 years and delivering the producer, bag and baggage, into the hands of the packers--he is an advocate of having the packer go to the country and doing his buying out of the pasture and feed lot. Undoubtedly this commission will make some recommendations for farm relief....."

Butter Market

Butter, Cheese and Egg Journal for November 12 says: "The most sensible and broadminded view on the butter situation in this country that we have heard expressed in some time is that expressed in an editorial appearing in the Milwaukee Journal....Here is what the Milwaukee Journal had to say: 'As dairying grows, we shall have to widen our markets, or the dairyman is likely to find himself in the shoes of the wheat farmer. But when export is mentioned, Denmark comes to mind. Isn't Denmark right at the doors of the foreign markets. Denmark that is held up as a model in dairying? Denmark is a little State. It is less than half the size of Indiana, and has only about 60 per cent as many milk cows as Wisconsin alone. It has built up a reputation for quality products; so the butter it throws on the markets is quickly sold, but Denmark really has only little dabs of butter to sell. Unquestionably, Europe would eat more butter if it could get it at reasonable prices. London might take a lot of Wisconsin and Minnesota butter if the distance between Wisconsin and

London were shortened by lower transportation charges. Instead of stewing about raising the tariff on the little dabs of butter that occasionally find their way to this country, we might better be prodding our Government into more attention to opening the St. Lawrence waterway, that we may float our tubs of butter to world markets.'.....All of us know the proposed St.Lawrence waterway can help trade conditions in many ways. There is every reason to believe it can help the butter trade."

Electricity for Farms

An Atlantic City dispatch to the press of November 23 states that the demand of the National Grange that electric light and power be furnished not only to farmers but to all consumers at cost, through Government construction and operation of super-power plants, called forth a reply November 22 from G.M.Gadsby of Pittsburgh, president of the Pennsylvania Electric Association, who declared that this was practically impossible. Mr. Gadsby made the statement while attending the ninth annual convention of the New Jersey Utilities Association. "The public utilities of the Nation," said Mr. Gadsby, "are now giving to the consumer service at the lowest possible cost commensurate with the type of service demanded. The utility companies are not fighting agricultural electrification. They will be glad to give the service and are striving to find a way to make that service available at a price which will permit its use by the farmers and at the same time justify the investment. The farmers and utilities can only solve this problem by cooperation. They must sit down and talk it over. Nothing can be gained by taking opposite sides and attacking each other. The problem, briefly, is this: If the transmission lines and other additional equipment provisions are made by the power companies, will the farmers use the current in sufficiently large numbers? It costs approximately between $2,000 and $2,500 to make the average farm ready for the use of current. Will the individual farmers go to this expense? If the farmers do not do these things, then the investment by the power companies will be a loss. There probably will be a compromise agreement. The power companies will not demand maximumuse of the new lines at the outset, but will certainly expect the use to grow...."

Farm Mortgages and Taxes

An editorial in The Washington Post of November 24 says: "The statement was made at the National Grange meeting the other day that the total mortgage debt resting on the farms of the United States amounts to $4,000,000,000 and that there are 'other debts' amounting to $10,000,000,000 more. The former of these statements is presumably correct, being based, as we understand, on census statistics. Concerning the latter, we must suspend judgment, awaiting further information. It would be interesting to know the causes and nature of an indebtedness two and a half times as great as the total of the mortgages. As to the $4,000,000,000 of mortgages, we must set against them the total value of farm property, which in 1920 was $77,924,000,000. The mortgage indebtedness amounted, then, to only 5.13 per cent of the value of the farms. The public debt of the Nation is $25,000,000,000, against a total national wealth of $290,000,000,000. The debt of the Nation is 8.62 per cent of its assets. So the farms are burdened with mortgages less than two-thirds as heavily as the

Nation as a whole. It must, however, be recognized that this mortgage debt rests upon only a small part of the farms, the great majority being free. According to the census of 1920 only 17.5 per cent of the farms, in value, were mortgaged, their total value being $13,775,500,013. Now mortgages of $4,000,000,000 against such property meant 29.1 per cent of its valuation. That is a pretty heavy load, yet by no means crushing. A man with assets of more than three times his liabilities is nowhere near insolvency. Of the mortaged farms the average value was $11,546, the average mortgage $3,356, and the average equity, therefore, $8,191. Let us see where the real burden lies. The average mortgage-carrying farmer has property worth $11,546, mortgaged for $3,356, and pays interest at the rate of 6.1 per cent. His yearly interest cost is $204.72. But if his 'State, county and township tax' is at the rate of 4 per cent on the value of his property, as it is in many places, his yearly tax bill is $461.84, or considerably more than twice his interest charges. If the tax rate is only 3 per cent, his taxes are nearly 70 per cent more than his interest. It would be idle and indeed offensive to pretend that the farmer who carries a mortgage is not burdened and in need of relief. What we have tried to point out is that the mortgage is by no means a hopeless or a crushing load to carry, and that the major part of his load is imposed by his State and local government in the form of taxation. When we consider the enormous increase of such taxation--with which the national Government has nothing whatever to do--and the portentous figures to which it has now attained, we can not but think that it is one of the subjects to which the Grange and other agrarian organizations need most to address themselves for relief."

Flour in the East

The Northwestern Miller for November 19 says: "Comment was recently made in this department on the possibilities of future great increase in the consumption of wheat flour in the Far East, the text having been taken from a twenty-year-ago prophecy of Mr.James J.Hill to the effect that if the Chinese ever learned to eat bread, 'not all of the fields of America could supply the wheat nor all of the mills grind the flour to supply the demand.' Curiously, at about the same time an editorial in the London Times emphasized the increasing tendency of North American wheat to move to the Pacific, and questioned the permanence of this continent as a source of wheat supply in the face of indications of enlarged demand from the Orient. It even regarded the situation as giving cause 'to view with some anxiety the development of an important competitor for the surplus supplies which are now available.' In the course of its article the Times calls attention to the fact that wheat exports from Vancouver to China and Japan increased from 3,380,000 bushels in the year ended March 1,1923, to 12,264,000 the following year, while wheat flour exports in the same period increased from 369,000 barrels to 806,000; from 1921 to 1924 total wheat exports from Vancouver increased from about half a million bushels to more than forty million, with a gain of over nine hundred per cent in flour exports in the same period.....The article continues: 'It would not be right to declare that the situation is alarming, but no one who looks to the future rather than at the immediate present can fail to recognize that if this country is compelled to continue to import four fifths of its wheat requirements,

it is impossible to view without some anxiety the development of an important competitor for the surplus supplies which are now available.'"

Pea Crop of New York

Approximately 3,000,000 cases was New York State's contribution to the pea production of the Nation this year, according to figures just compiled by the Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation. Of the 19,315,000 cases of peas produced in the United States, which broke all records, 2,931,000 were put up in New York State, according to the foundation. Wisconsin leads the Nation with 10,390,000 cases, New York follows and Maryland is third with 873,000. Other heavy producers are: Utah, 830,000; Michigan, 710,000; Illinois, 697,000; Indiana, 483,000; Minnesota, 470,000; and Ohio, 430,000. All these, with the exception of Utah, showed an increase over last year. (Press, Nov.23.)

Tobacco Marketing

Sioux City Live Stock Record for November 20, says: "The burley tobacco growers of Kentucky and adjoining States have decided not to produce a crop next year, in order to dispose of their accumulated surplus. At least, that is the decision of their organization. To what extent they will be able to hold their membership in line, and what the tendency will be among farmers outside the organization remains to be seen. At first glance this appears to be a sensible sort of thing for producers to do, says the Chicago Drovers Journal. If the market is overloaded reduce production. And probably it is the best thing they can do, though this tobacco land will not lie idle. Most of it, no doubt, will be devoted to corn and small grains, and the possibility of increased production in those lines with adverse price effects is not to be ignored. Using their close organization for the purpose of stopping production for a year has another angle to it that it brought out by a comment in the Chicago Journal of Commerce. 'Imagine what would happen,' says that publication, 'if all the manufacturers who buy that tobacco and make it fit for smoking were to decide in 1926 that inasmuch as the price was too high as a result of the no-crop plan, they would buy only half as much burley tobacco in 1927 as 1926! Anti-trust prosecutions would be inevitable. The poor, down-trodden grower would have the sympathy of the country in his protest that the great, powerful, insolent manufacturers were trying to bankrupt him. That the manufacturer had been hurt by the policy of the growers would not be deemed worthy of attention....' That is not an unfair view to take, looking at it from the other side of the fence. Whether on the farm or in other industries, the opportunity for organized control of production does bring with it the possibility of monopolistic abuse, with costly reactions against both those who exercise the control and those who are the victims of it. Is it possible for control, in agriculture or elsewhere, to be fair? If not it can not succeed. The burley tobacco growers' decision will afford one more test in what so far is a purely experimental field. Are we to go in the direction of great combinations, in all industries, including agriculture, with some measure of control over production, and prices? The answer to that question is not yet. We are merely experimenting."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Nov.24: New York Round White potatoes $1.05 to $1.15 sacked per 100 pounds in eastern cities; 85¢ to 90¢ f.o.b. Rochester. Eastern Shore Virginia yellow varieties sweet potatoes ranged mostly $4 to $5 per barrel. Cabbage advanced $5 to $10 in leading markets and at shipping points. New York Danish type mostly $20 to $25 bulk per ton in eastern cities, top of $30 in Cincinnati; $14 to $15 f.o.b. Rochester. Ordinary quality New York Baldwin apples sold at $5 per barrel in New York; $1.25 to $1.75 per bushel basket in Pittsburgh.

Chicago hog prices closed at $9.40 for the top and $8.00 to $9.00 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $6.75 to $12.00; butcher cows and heifers $3.15 to $11.25; feeder steers $4.35 to $7.50; light and medium weight veal calves $8 to $10.

Closing prices of 92 score butter: New York 45 1/2¢; Chicago 47 3/4¢; Philadelphia 45¢; Boston 44¢.

Grain prices quoted Nov.24: No.1 dark northern $1.54 to $1.76. No.2 red winter Chicago $1.56 1/2; St.Louis $1.55 1/2 to $1.56; Kansas City $1.49 to $1.58. No.2 mixed corn Chicago $1.13 3/4 to $1.14; Minneapolis $1.12 to $1.14; Kansas City $1.06 1/2 to $1.07. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.15 to $1.17; Minneapolis $1.16 to $1.16 1/2; St. Louis $1.16 to $1.17; Kansas City $1.07 1/2. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.14 1/2 to $1.15 1/2; Minneapolis $1.11 to $1.15. No.2 white corn Chicago $1.14to $1.14 1/2; St. Louis $1.13; Kansas City $1.07 to $1.07 1/2. No.3 white oats Chicago 50 1/2 to 52 1/2¢; Minneapolis 48 7/8 to 49 1/8¢; St.Louis 52 1/2 to 53¢; Kansas City 52¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 35 points, closing at 23.97¢ per lb. New York December future contracts up 35 points, closing at 24.00¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Nov.24,	Nov.22,	Nov.24,1923
20 Industrials	109.81	109.55	92.60
20 R.R.stocks	95.80	95.96	81.20

(Wall St. Jour., Nov.25.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XV,no.49 Section 1 November 26,1924

National Budget Within Limit — The press to-day states that despite last minute additions to meet the wishes of Cabinet officers, the national budget for the next fiscal year as completed November 25 at a conference between President Coolidge and Budget Director Lord limits the ordinary expenditures of the Government to a figure well under the $1,800,000,000 total fixed by President Coolidge in his talk last June to Government fiscal officers. Mr. Lord declined to reveal the precise total or discuss details of the budget, but he said previous expectations of the governmental economies possible had been more than realized.

Economic Conditions — The general commercial condition has improved to such a degree that Government officials may now concentrate their attention on constructive developments for the future Secretary Hoover said November 25, rather than continuously attempting to ease economic ills for particular geographic sections or industries. "With the farming situation pretty well cleared up by reason of better prices for principal agricultural products the pressure for giving relief is a good deal less," Mr. Hoover said. "We can consider what the Government may properly do in aiding the advance of our industri and economic civilization by proper methods." When he was asked to define what he would consider as constructive efforts in which the Government might aid the Secretary named the project for the St.Lawrence River canal, the development of superpower facilities and the project for conserving and bringing the Colorado River watershed to the fullest utilization.(Press, Nov.26.)

Clergy and Farm Home Cooperation — The New York Times to-day says: "Closer cooperation between country ministers of Illinois and those workers who are interested in improved living conditions on the farm and in the farm home is expected to follow the series of three agricultura conferences recently held over the State by the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois. The meetings, the first of their kind ever held in the State, were designed to bring farm and home advisers, farm and home bureaus, rural pastors and rural churches, teachers of vocational agriculture and rural schools closer together on a program which would improve the economic and religious life of farm families in the communities touched by these agencies....The three district conferences will be followed by country conferences in which ministers of a single county will get together with their country representatives in agriculture and home economics work and map out programs of cooperative work for the future."

Muscle Shoals — The press to-day states that a new bid for Muscle Shoals similar to that of Henry Ford,which has been withdrawn, is expected by Senator Underwood, of Alabama, and he has decided to withhold a bill under preparation for the time being. If a new bid should not materialize, Senator Underwood said he would then introduce his bill with the indorsement of the southern senators at the short session of Congress.

Section 2

Agricultural Commission

Daily Argus-Leader for November 20 says: "No political promise was ever more promptly fulfilled than that of the President to appoint a commission to investigate the agricultural question. And now the commission itself has gotten down to work with a thoroughness that inspires instant confidence. This is no mere political gesture. The commission obviously means business. The President, moreover, has given it full leeway, and has placed every department of the Government at its command in getting the facts it needs...With the exception of providing for the cattle industry, which is in a slump just now, there will be little need to consider any hasty or temporary legislation. They have a further advantage is being under no partisan or sectional pressure of any kind. They are not met as the representatives of any political party and they come from all sections of the country. They have nothing to consider but the best interests of agriculture, and the country, grateful to the President for having given them full leeway in the matter, should insist that nothing be allowed to handicap them from any other quarter."

Banker-Farmer Cooperation

The Financial Age for November 22 says: "An experiment which will be watched with interest by bankers, not only in Tennessee, but elsewhere throughout the country, is that planned by the Tennessee Farmer-Banker Bureau, which aims to bring to the attention of farmers of the State matters of mutual interest to themselves and to bankers. As it is intended to bring to the attention of farmers through their class publication, as well as through weekly newspapers in the several counties of the State, articles on farm and agricultural subjects prepared by a corps of experts, the plan would appear on the surface to have much of merit to commend it. If banks generally subscribe to the service and suggest articles which might be of interest to the farmers, an opportunity will be offered for a close contact between the bankers and agriculturists which should prove mutually beneficial. That the plan should be considered at all shows the trend toward greater cooperation between the banks and those whom they serve, whether farmers or other classes of citizens. Such contacts cannot fail to be helpful when their purpose is thoroughly understood. If the banks are enabled to be of real service to the farmers, it is entirely reasonable to believe that a feeling of friendship will be engendered which should prove valuable to the banks in the way of increased patronage and helpful to the farmers in the broader understanding of their needs which publicity of the right sort will provide."

Beet Sugar Factory

A Fresno, Calif., dispatch to the press of November 24 states that the beet sugar factory at Hamilton City, one of the largest plants of its kind on the Pacific Coast, which has been idle for six years, will be reopened soon, when employment will be provided for more than 300 men. Sugar beet production of at least 6,000 acres of northern California will be necessary to keep the wheels of the plant turning.

Canadian Pulp Mill

A Montreal dispatch to the press of November 23 says: "It is rumored that Price Bros. & Co.,Ltd., have decided to proceed immediately with the construction of their new 200-ton per day pulp mill at St.Joseph Dalma in close proximity to the Duke Price power development on the Grand Discharge. St.Joseph Dalma is situated on the Little Discharge flowing out of Lake St.John and is a few miles distant from the power site."

Esthonia's Flax and Linseed

The New York Times of November 23 states that the Central Statistical Bureau recently published figures covering the exports of flax and linseed of Esthonia during the year 1923, the total being 569,388 poods of flax and 30,684 poods of linseed, valued at 1,084,831,000 marks and 12,274,000 marks, according to the European Commercial of Vienna. The decrease in linseed exports is attributable to the fact that in the meantime numerous linseed oil mills had been established in Esthonia, so that far larger quantities of the material were worked up inside the country.

Farm Investments

Kansas City Daily Drovers Telegram for November 22 says: "A sound financial policy is essential to success. This is as true in farming as it is in any other line of business. The investment of profits or surplus funds makes for the success or spells the doom of any business. The recent rally in the prices of agricultural products, with its promise of prosperity, suggests the consideration of the financial policy which left the farmers of the United States with greatly increased debts and in great economic distress following the post-war period of extremely high prices for wheat, corn, hogs and cattle. First of all, it must be said that periods of prosperity usually lead to extravagances and mistakes of one sort or another which make reaction inevitable. Hope outruns realization, and expansion in business enterprises is overdone. The common practices of men engaged in agriculture really intensify these dangers. These practices lead to the investment of surplus funds in more lands for the expansion of production, until in times of stress these very investments become a boomerang to destroy prosperity. Frozen assets have wrought havoc with many a financial institution; they have wrought havoc as well with many a farmer's prosperity. The agricultural industry has not yet learned the necessity to observe that sound business principle of accumulating liquid reserves during the days of prosperity to carry the business through the crises that come with falling profits...Industry has learned to meet these emergencies by the expediency of a financial policy of accumulating liquid reserves upon which to draw when the emergency comes. Agriculture could profit by this example. Indeed, agriculture has greater need for a financial policy to meet emergencies than has industry, for agriculture is at the mercy of weather conditions as well as at the mercy of the markets. It has a double contingency to face. The ups and downs of agriculture are inevitable, more than the ups and downs of any other business. This renders it all the more essential that the farmer's investments should be of such a character that he has at his command a greater proportion of liquid assets than he has had in the past when the periods of depression

come upon him. The dawn of returning prosperity is a fitting time for agricultural leaders to begin an educational campaign that will have for its purpose the adoption of a sound financial policy for agriculture."

Flour Survey

An editorial in Modern Miller for November 15 says: "The Millers' National Federation has in mind an immediate survey of the milling industry to determine costs and provide uniform cost accounting and to analyze the supplies of wheat and the markets for flour. The factor of excessive capacity in its relation to normal consumption would be determined in such a survey. This attempt to determine facts in domestic trade, some believe, should be directed to a survey of foreign markets. What are the possibilities of developing trade in new markets? What is the basis of stimulating bread consumption, and developing trade with markets outside of established channels of trade? What banking and steamship facilities should be developed in practical trade extension?...The Department of Commerce is making a number of trade surveys, and we believe a flour survey, more particularly extended to new markets, would be timely and a constructive help to the industry."

Fruit Utilization in Australia

The New York Times of November 25 says: "The misshaped lemon and the orange with the bad complexion will probably soon assume their places in the Australian markets as important profit makers for the citrus fruit growers of the continent in the South Pacific. ...Although many suggestions from time to time had been made to eliminate this annual waste of juicy but unsalable fruit, it remained for Captain C. I. Adcock of Sydney to come forth with a probable solution for the problem. Capatain Adcock, who before the war and since that time had been gaining experience with French manufacturers of essential oils, interested a large Australian citrus growing concern, near Gosford, in the question of by-products of their industry. He did this by giving an exhibition of essential oils and perfumes at an agricultural show in Sydney a short time ago. The company liked Adcock's idea and proved it. In a short time a fruit and vegetable by-products company was organized, with a capital of $50,000 and with shareholders numbering 267, among whom there were 250 fruit growers. The company, since its organization a few months ago, has been treating mechanically about fifty tons of citrus fruit each week, and during the last two months more than 9,000 bushels of inferior fruit have been utilized for manufacture. ..."

Grain Exports

Grain exports from the United States last week amounted to 9,027,000 bushels as compared with 8,352,000 bushels the previous week. Figures made public Nov.24 by the Commerce Department showed the following shipments, compared with a week ago: Wheat,7,544,000 bushels against 6,100,000; rye, 353,000 against 488,000; corn, 138,000 against 411,000; barley, 907,000 against 1,106,000. Canadian grains exported from United States ports amounted to 2,024,000 bushels against 838,000 bushels the previous week. (Press,Nov.25.)

Milk Distribution

An editorial in The Rural New-Yorker for November 15 says: "We have been speaking of changes in distributing milk--bringing far distant territory into competition with localities which a few years ago had practically a monopoly. A case of this kind is found in Pittsburgh. Milk is now being carried in tanks from points 100 miles away in Ohio. Two big thermos bottles are mounted--one on a truck and the other on a trailer. The combined capacity is over 2,500 gallons, and the trip is made in about nine hours. The cold milk in these big tanks loses less than two degrees during the trip. At both ends of the trip pipes are used for loading and unloading. But a few minutes are required for cleaning the tanks. On the whole there is a great saving in cans and labor. It looks as if this system will be developed further wherever the roads are good. In time we think there will be a system of pipe lines running out of the great cities to creameries or stations in the country...."

Wool

The Commercial Bulletin (Boston) for November 22 says: "Wool prices are surging strongly upward, the scarcity of wool the world over, rather than the demand for clothing being the immediate impulse for the advance, although the clothing trade appears to be in a perfectly healthy condition. The opening of the New Zealand season this week was the signal for a strong advance, which has been reflected in South America, also. England and America are the two leading buyers at the moment in the primary markets, although the Continent is keen at the River Plate. Advances of 5 to 15 per cent over last series' closing are predicted for the coming London colonial auctions."

World Farm Bloc

A dispatch from Brugg, Switzerland, to the press of November 23 says: "Politicians the world over will be struggling with an international farm bloc, known as the Green Internationale, if the plans recently worked out here under the leadership of Prof. Lauer are carried into execution. Representatives of the United States, England, Germany, France, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Holland and Hungary attended the meeting. It was decided to open a permanent secretarial office immediately with a view to launching the organization at a convention to be held next year at Warsaw."

World Food Production

World food production continues to keep pace with the increase in population despite the reported movement from the farms to the cities. Statistics of world production of the principal agricultural products used for food, compiled by the Trade Record of The National City Bank of New York, show the 1923 outturn of the principal food products 13 per cent greater in quantity than in 1913. The Trade Record's compilation includes wheat, rye, corn, potatoes, oats and rice, and these six great groups of foodstuffs show a world outturn (exclusive of Russia for which figures are not now available) of approximately 20 billion bushels in 1923 against 17 billions in 1913.

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Nov.25: New York Round White potatoes sold at $1.05 to $1.15 sacked per 100 pounds in New York and Baltimore; 80¢ f.o.b. Rochester. Maine sacked Green Mountains $1.15 to $1.40 sales to jobbers; bulk stock 50¢ to 55¢ f.o.b. Presque Isle, Me. Northern sacked Round Whites $1.05 to $1.15 in a few cities; 68¢ to 70¢ f.o.b.

New York Danish type cabbage $20 to $25 bulk per ton in eastern cities; top of $30 in Cincinnati; $12 to $15 f.o.b. Rochester. New York sacked yellow onions $1.85 to $2.15 in Baltimore; $1.80 to $1.85 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida Big Boston type lettuce $3.25 to $3.50 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper in New York. New York Golden Self-blanching celery $2.50 to $3 per 2/3 crate in leading markets. Ordinary quality New York Baldwin apples sold at $4.50 to $4.75 per barrel in New York.

Chicago hog prices closed at $8.75 to $9.15 for the top. Medium and good beef steers $6.75 to $12.00; butcher cows and heifers $3.25 to $11.25; feeder steers $4.35 to $7.50; light and medium weight veal calves $8.00 to $10.00; fat lambs $12.75 to $14.25; feeding lambs $12 to $14; yearlings $9.25 to $12.25 and fat ewes $5.00 to $8.50.

Grain prices quoted Nov.25: No.1 dark northern, Minneapolis $1.51 to $1.73. No.2 red winter, Chicago $1.65 3/4; St.Louis $1.67 to $1.70; Kansas City $1.58 to $1.63. No.2 hard winter, Chicago $1.55 1/2; St.Louis $1.53 1/2 to $1.54; Kansas City $1.46 to $1.56. No.2 mixed corn Chicago $1.14 1/2; Minneapolis $1.08 1/4 to $1.11 1/4; Kansas City $1.05 1/2 to $1.06 1/2. No.2 yellow corn, Chicago $1.16; Minneapolis $1.14 1/4; Kansas City $1.07 1/2 to $1.09 1/2. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.14 1/2; Minneapolis $1.07 1/4 to $1.12 1/4; No.2 white corn, Chicago $1.13; St.Louis $1.11 to $1.12; Kansas City $1.06. No.3 white oats, Chicago 51 1/2 to 52 3/4¢; Minneapolis 48 3/4 to 48 7/8¢; St. Louis 52 1/2¢; Kansas City 51 3/4¢.

Middling spot cotton in ten designated spot markets declined 26 points, closing at 23.71 cents per pound; New York December future contracts declined 25 points, closing at 23.75 cents. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Nov.25,	Nov.24,	Nov.24, 1923
20 Industrials	110.08	109.81	92.60
20 R.R.stocks	96.53	95.80	81.20

(Wall St.Jour., Nov.26.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol.XV,no.50 Section 1 November 28,1924

Business Situation

A summary of general business conditions made public November 27 by the Federal Reserve Board showed that business was going along at a satisfactory pace, with increases in production of basic commodities and factory employment in October and the early part of November. Distribution was in large volume. The general level of wholesale prices advanced, due principally to a rise in the prices of agricultural products. While the board's index of production in basic industries was still considerably below the level of the early months of this year, it increased 6 per cent.in October and was 16 per cent above the low point of midsummer. Output of iron and steel, cotton and woolen textiles, lumber and bituminous coal was substantially larger than the months before. (Press, Nov. 28)

Secretary Hoover's Report

America's prosperity in the fiscal year which closed on June 30, as shown by the rise in farm prices, better railroad conditions and a trade balance of $757,000,000, is set forth at length by Secretary Hoover in his annual report, made public November 27. Mr. Hoover refers optimistically to the Dawes Plan and the improved trade and finances of Europe. "A definite constructive national program has been developed for the elimination of waste in our economic system," he says. "The need is plain. The American standard of living is the product of high wages to producers and low prices to consumers. The road to national progress lies in increasing real wages through proportionately lower prices. The one and only way is to improve methods and processes and to eliminate waste. Just as twenty years ago we undertook Nation-wide conservation of natural resources, so now we must undertake Nation-wide elimination of waste. Regulations and laws are of but minor effect on these fundamental things. But by well-directed economic forces, by cooperation in the community, we can not only maintain American standards of living -- we can raise them," says Mr. Hoover.

Milwaukee As Dairy Distribution Point

A Milwaukee dispatch to the press of November 28 states that arrangements are on foot in Wisconsin to make Milwaukee the greatest concentration and distributing point for dairy products in the United States. The first move will be the building at once of a $2,000,000 storage warehouse to permit dairymen to store their products for curing and, if need be, to keep them off the market if prices temporarily are too low. An extensive advertising program will be carried out.

Potato Marketing in Minnesota

A St. Paul dispatch to the press of November 28 states that the Minnesota Potato Growers' Exchange, a farmers' organization, has handled more than 4,000 carloads of potatoes so far this season. This is the exchange's first season, but its business promises to be one of the largest of any potato selling organization in the country.

Section 2

Agricultural Commission

The Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette for November 19 says: "There is no exaggerating the importance of the work of the new commission with respect to pending bills. Pride of authorship, the inner politics of farm organizations and a half dozen other problems have become interwoven with each other to such an extent that it has been difficult for the administration to back whole-heartedly any one bill. Nor has it been practical to obtain the amalgamation of several proposals into one. Nothing was more disappointing to the members of the Senate and the House from agricultural States in the last session than the failure to pass any bill of importance with respect to farm relief. ... Another advantage which the commission enjoys is that no crisis or acute situation is immediately ahead. The condition of agriculture, while far from what must ultimately be desired if stability is to be experienced for any length of time, is nevertheless better than it was a year or two years ago. Usually if there is a crisis in any particular industry the proposals for relief are so extreme in character and the judgments of the proponents so warped by acute feeling that a calm consideration of the merits of any suggestion is difficult. The new commission hopes to get its report ready for the winter session of Congress. That is optimistic. There are many reasons why action at the coming session would be desirable and even easy to obtain should there be an unanimous report from the commission. But most controlling will be the knowledge that the farm areas of the United States will be demanding a special session after March 4 to get something done on the committee's recommendations. The committee has all the cooperation it needs from Government agencies and farm organizations and might surprise everybody by having a report ready in February. .. "

Cotton Supply

The Wall Street Journal of November 26 says: "Consumption of American grown cotton in the twelve months ending July 31, 1925, is estimated by Volkart Bros. of Winterthur, Switzerland, at 12,700,000 bales. Thus the increased cotton crop estimate is met by one of increased consumption that nearly balances it. The world supply, therefore, is in no better position than for the past two years. For ten years Europe has shown an under-consumption of cotton goods. That there is a great improvement in the political and economic outlook in Europe is now beyond argument. The foreign exchange situation is an encouraging fact, and Japan is recovering from the effect of the earthquake. The export movement of cotton also is testimony of world improvement. Since the first of August about 2,800,000 bales of cotton have gone from the United States compared with 2,278,000 a year ago. Already the exports are half a million bales above those of last year, and the movement last week amounted to 360,000 bales. Figures for North America are extremely conservative and probably do not cover the consumption of the United States alone. Last year, one of depression in the cotton industry, total consumption of lint in the United States was 5,688,111 bales, of which 5,460,000 were American grown. In the year before we consumed 6,666,000 bales, of which 6,323,000 were American grown cotton. Quantity consumed last year was actually less than the average of the preceding five years, without even taking into consideration the increase in population, implying a corresponding increase in the consumption of cotton. Since the close of the

last cotton year there has been a great increase in mill activity. In the last month of past season mill activity was only 60 per cent of capacity, but in October of this year it had increased to 85.4 per cent.... This increased activity did not end with October, but is continuing. The cotton mill outlook has improved with the increased size of the crop. Market activity continues. The Macy Yarn Report from New Bedford says that while there is nothing like a boom there is a steadily broadening market. Reports from the southern districts also are to the same effect. The Fairchild Index shows through November a better margin between cloth and raw cotton prices. A bull market in raw cotton is not desirable, but the supply situation is not to be viewed with too much complacency."

Farm Land Prices

Richard T. Ely, professor of economics, University of Wisconsin, and director of the Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities, is the author of an article entitled "Beware Another Land Boom" in The Country Gentleman of November 29. He says in part: "For four years prices of farm land have been disastrously declining, and, with the exception of forced sales, sales have been extremely few at any price. In most parts of the country it has seemed almost impossible to give away farm lands. Disheartening, indeed, has been the situation for the man who has been forced by debt or other misfortune to sell his land; for not infrequently the price received has been so low as to wipe out the accumulation of a lifetime. Recently we have had encouraging reports. It has been said that farm-land prices are on the upgrade, and it has even been estimated that there has been a general increase of fifteen dollars an acre. What is still more encouraging, however, is that sales are actually being made, that cash is flowing into the hands of farmers and from farmers to bankers, who have been suffering from the paralyzing effects of frozen credits. The situation is a hopeful and encouraging one. On the other hand, the time has clearly come to sound a warning note lest we have a recurrence of the distressing conditions from which we are emerging. The strident voice of the boomer is beginning to be heard in the land. He tells us that we are just beginning a period of rapidly mounting prices of farm lands. He urges us to buy now, immediately, to hurry up, lest we lose the chance to buy land which 'will surely double in value in ten years.' His appeal is to buy farming lands, not for the sake of the income they promise, but for the sake of increased selling values in the near future. In other words, he urges us to repeat the mistakes of the past. Why are we in distress now? . . It is the farmers who bought at inflated prices and gave mortgages based upon high prices who have been foreclosed and have brought disaster upon themselves and others. Unreasonably high land prices are the first cause of the farmers' distress, and if we would avoid repetition of the disasters of the past four years, we must understand the nature of farm-land prices."

Grain Export

The Journal of Commerce for November 25 says: "Data now published by the Department of Commerce substantiate the belief previously held by close students of foreign trade matters that our greatly enhanced October exports were for the most part due to larger

shipments of grain, notably wheat, at much higher prices. It is now officially stated that the value of our wheat exports during the month in question was $58,000,000 greater than that of the corresponding shipments of October, 1923. Several of the other grains and grain products likewise went abroad in much larger amounts, so that our October exports of grains and grain products exceeded those of the previous year in value by about $82,000,000. The situation presented by an increase in exports which is due largely to greater demand for grain and the higher prices resulting is, of course, radically different from that which would have resulted from a better balanced advancement in our export trade. The wheat situation is quite exceptional this year. It is not likely to occur again in the early future. Short crops in Europe and almost a crop failure in Canada coupled with a good yield in this country are circumstances which do not often occur simultaneously. Improvement in our trade with foreign peoples to the extent that it is the result of such a combination of fortuitous conditions is not likely to prove very permanent."

Muscle Shoals

An editorial in The Country Gentleman for November 29 says: "In all the controversy that has raged some of the most elementary principles of business seem to have been overlooked or set aside as of no consequence. The fixation of nitrogen is a very new industry. The art is changing rapidly. Several processes are already in operation. The discovery of some new principle may make all these obsolete. The new process may require a vast amount of power or it may not; no one knows. Herein lies the danger of dedicating in perpetuity any great power enterprise to a special purpose. It would be like trying to decide by law the ultimate uses of coal in Colonial days, or of electricity thirty years ago. Moreover, the making of nitrates except in time of war is a business, like any other business, that can not exist unless it can pay its way out of earnings. Even the Government can not operate an industry very long on any other basis. Whenever the fixation of nitrogen gives evidence of becoming a profitable industry plenty of privately owned nitrate plants will spring up to supply our needs. They are already springing up in England, in Germany and in other foreign countries. There are rumors of several new ones to be erected soon in the United States. The farmers need cheaper fertilizer, it is true. It is also true that Muscle Shoals is a good place to make fertilizer because it is near the source of raw materials. He would be a brave prophet, however, who would maintain that Muscle Shoals is the only good place; or even that water power is essential to the operation of a successful fertilizer plant. The truth of the matter is that Muscle Shoals is first and foremost a great water-power site. It should be the center of a great manufacturing district and it probably should improve the navigation of the Tennessee River. Beyond these considerations most other things said about Muscle Shoals are for political effect, or to serve individual fortunes, political and otherwise. Probably the wisest thing Congress can do is to turn the property over to some private corporation under the Federal Water Power act, to be developed for power purposes. The Government has a hundred-million-dollar investment at stake and it is perfectly proper for it to contract with the purchaser to experiment with the manufacture of nitrates, as Henry Ford proposed. If nitrates can be made at a profit a contract to make them is not needed; if they can not pay their way a contract is useless. The Government might reasonably stipulate, if it wished to stimulate

the industry, that manufacturers of nitrates be given a preferential power rate up to a certain maximum of power generated. But to dedicate any of our undeveloped power resources anywhere for any special purpose seems to leave out of account the modern spirit of invention and the hazards of rapidly changing conditions."

Production and Prices — An editorial in Farm and Ranch for November 15 says: "The United States, richest of all Nations, is living from hand to mouth. It is a startling statement to make, but it is true. As a Nation, we fail to live up to the old injunction handed out to us by bankers, merchants and other business men to prepare for the proverbial rainy day. We produce our food and fiber and consume them within a brief season, depending upon another crop to meet our needs the following year. Any sign of a surplus production is a signal for a depression of prices, oftentimes below the cost of production. Yet, even a partial crop failure over our entire producing area would bring starvation to the doors of millions, and near total failure would mean disaster to those who count their wealth in millions. ... Surplus is a menace to the producer and of but little benefit to the consumer. Our system of economy discourages a surplus. Providing for a 'rainy day' does not enter into our calculations. We are rich this year and poor the next. We may have plenty to-day and be begging for bread tomorrow, all because our way of doing business makes it unprofitable for producers to create a surplus of necessities as an insurance against want in times of crop failure. We store up ammunition and guns for use in some possible future war, but we trust to Providence or luck to provide us with plenty to eat and wear from one day to another. Fortunately, our diversity of climate and soil has thus far enabled us to meet our seasonal needs, but with increasing demands upon our producing resources, the time may come when we will wish we had provided a surplus without penalizing the farmers who produced it."

"Truth in Fabric" Legislation — The Journal of Commerce for November 26 says: "Just what good will the 'truth in fabric' legislation do the farmer? We know what harm will be brought by it to the maker of woolen goods and to the consumer. The latter will be misled by the branding proposals of the bill because of his assumption that 'virgin wool' is much superior as a material of manufacture to other forms of wool. The producer will be obliged to adjust himself to the misleading information thus furnished and to submit to the changes in trade practices and customs which will be entailed thereby, notwithstanding that they do no good to the buyer and user of the commodity. These great evils are no doubt regarded by the advocates of the 'truth in fabric' bill as minor elements provided that some benefit can be rendered to the farmer by the action proposed. The producer of wool, however, will in no way profit from any such measure. He gets his profit now from the sale of wool to manufacturers who are obliged to draw largely upon the foreign supply for what they need. If the idea of the advocates of the bill is that by branding cloth in the way that they suggest they can create a vastly greater demand for wool the benefit of it will go, of course, largely to the foreigner. It is much to be questioned, however, whether any such branding scheme will affect demand one way or the other in the aggregate the chief effect to be anticipated from it being the favoring of one group in the community at the expense of others."

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Vol.XV,no. 51 Section 1 November 29, 1924

Bakery Merger Attacked — The New York Times to-day says: "William G. Marvin, a New York attorney, said yesterday that as an act 'for the public good' he would file a formal complaint on Monday with the Federal Trade Commission against the Continental Baking Corporation merger, recently incorporated. Mr. Marvin declined to make public the complaint in advance of its presentation to the Trade Commission, but he intimated that it would embrace the united opposition of the millers of the country against what he said was in principle a 'combination in food.' He said he did not propose to attack any individual of the corporation.

Illegal Immigration — A Buenos Aires dispatch to the press of November 29 says: "Speaking before the American Club at Buenos Aires, November 28, James J. Davis, United States Secretary of Labor, said he estimated that 850,000 persons had entered the United States clandestinely during the fiscal year 1923-24. Secretary Davis said that much of this illegal immigration come over the Mexican and Canadian borders, and that the Immigration Department did not know exactly how it was done. He estimated that 35,000 foreign seamen arrived in United States ports and never took the return voyage. The Secretary of Labor cited these figures as showing what would happen if America should throw the immigration doors open. He estimated that there were 10,000,000 Europeans who wanted to enter the United States, and declared that the country could not absorb this number economically.

A Montreal dispatch to the press to-day states that of the 57,367 persons departing from Montreal for a "temporary visit" to the United States during the last five months, 40,197 did not return, I. D. Wixon, United States Immigration Commissioner, said November 28. Mr. Wixon asserted that 72 per cent of those crossing the line from that district employed subterfuge to enter and remain in the United States.

Business Situation — Dun's report to-day says: "Next to the last month of the year is closing with definite improvement in business and with favorable prospects. There is more confidence now and more disposition to increase commitments, with larger buying both to fill immediate needs and to make provision for future requirements. The change for the better, alike in sentiment and in actual transactions, is evident in all sections of the country, reports generally indicating a distinct gain in activity, and those from the West reflecting the special stimulus of the higher prices for agricultural staples."

The Sugar Tariff — The press of November 29 states that President Coolidge expects to announce soon his decision on the report of the Tariff Commission recommending a reduction in the sugar duty. The report was presented to the President some time ago, and he subsequently asked for additional data from the commission and the Department of Agriculture, which have just been received. The commission, it is understood, is divided three to two in favor of a cut in the present sugar duty, with the minority opposing any change in the present rate.

Agricultural Commission

Kansas Daily Drovers Telegram for November 25 says: "'What can the agricultural commission recently appointed by President Coolidge do for the farmers?' That is a question that farmers everywhere are asking. Only a few have offered any suggestions as to what the committee can do to aid the farmer, and those who have advanced any suggestions have done so with the thought that the committee has no legislative, executive or administrative powers and that it was appointed to take a survey of the agricultural situation and make recommendations for the betterment of the condition of the farmers. Many cattlemen in the Southwest and West have given considerable thought to what the committee could recommend to the President in the way of legislation that would be of material aid to the cowmen. 'We took pains to help the wheat men by putting up a tariff wall against Canadian wheat,' a Panhandle cattleman said to-day, 'and the cowman is worse off to-day than the wheat man ever was. If the wheat man was helped by a tariff wall that made it possible for him to operate without the handicap of cheap Canadian wheat why would it not be a good idea to put a tariff on hides and help the American cattleman to that extent? The tariff on wool helped the sheep and wool man and helped him immensely and yet we are operating under a free hide schedule in our tariff laws and the American cattleman is getting the worst of it. The committee might take notice of such a situation as this. Let's have the tax on oleomargarine removed. Such a suggestion will put the dairy cattlemen up in arms, of course, but the tax on oleomargarine is a tax against the beef cattle industry, and we cattlemen have to pay it. I do not suppose that the committee would dare take such a step and take a chance on facing the wrath of the dairy interests of the country, but the removal of the tax on oleomargarine would make a better price for our cattle. We need a good stiff tariff law against imported meats and particularly canned meats. I understand that a great deal of cheap South American canned beef is coming in and it pays a relatively small tariff duty, and it is paying that duty and still underselling American made beef. This is wrong, but I am wondering if we as cattlemen can make the President's committee see that it is wrong and make a report to that effect.'"

Agriculture

The Wall Street Journal of November 27 says: "After four years of depression agriculture may to-day give grateful thanks for material blessings. If it can not yet say with the Psalmist 'my cup runneth over,' it can offer heartfelt acknowledgement that, of all businesses in the United States, it has most profited this year. Outside the United States the whole world is short of bread grains, but only five times in our history has our wheat crop been as large. Out of this crop we can export at least 225,000,000 bushels, for which the world will pay high prices. This necessarily benefits the whole country, but in particular it applies to those sections that a year ago were in the depths of depression. The oats crop is an unusually large one, and, in fact, with the exception of corn all grain yields are good. Toward the end of the growing season nature smiled on the cotton crop, adding from half a million to nearly a million bales to the total. Most prices of farm products are high and all at least are on a profitable basis. Marketing has been in tremendous volume. Bank deposits have been increasing while debts have been reduced. The farmers themselves now

possess a far greater purchasing power than at any time since the 1920 deflation of prices. . .. With the exception of metals and metal products other prices are still above farm products. But in the past year they have come down while farm products have been rising. They are closer together now than at any time since early 1920. Farm prices also are still rising and there is strong probability that they will continue to advance for some time yet. It is certain that when the year closes the statistics will be far more in favor of the farmer than a year ago, while spring and early summer should show still further gains. Our farmers as a class, therefore, have good cause for thanksgiving."

Cost Accounting Report The proceedings of the Chicago Conference on Uniform Cost Accounting, constituting a compendium of the progress made in this field in widely varying lines of industry, will, as announced by the department of manufacture of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, be ready for distribution about December 6. The proceedings include surveys of cost accounting developments in the printing ink, fresh milk, corrugated and fiber box, printing, rubber, millwork, prepared roofing and other industries. An address by J. W. O'Leary, vice president of the Chicago Trust Company, on the relation of financing to cost accounting, is also included in the report. Practical methods by which various problems arising in the development and installation of uniform cost systems have been solved by different industries are explained in the proceedings. Copies may be obtained from the department of manufacture, Chamber of Commerce of the United States. (Press statement, Ch. of Com. of U.S. Nov. 28.)

European Tariffs A Paris dispatch to the press of November 28 states that a tariff war among European countries appears likely through the changes in the schedules of duties that already have been made, or are in the making. The French Tariff bill, which is now before the finance committee of the Chamber of Deputies, although not yet printed, is understood to embody a sharp increase in all duties, except on foodstuffs, with a radically diminished margin between minimum and maximum rates. Belgium's new schedule is equally high, while the French delegates who are negotiating with the Germans have been startled at some of the duties which the Reich is planning to impose on French products. The general rise in minimum rates is understood to be for the purpose of reducing the advantages that countries are obliged to grant under the favored nation clause, and of giving France and Belgium a margin for bargaining with Germany.

Extension Work in Florida The Florida Times-Union for November 25 says: "Agriculture has been more backward in Duval County than in many other counties of the State, as a whole. Persistent agitation of the need for development of Jacksonville's back country, of the necessity of leading citizens of the city and county to 'get behind' a movement for the betterment of the situation and give energetic encouragement to the tillers of Duval County soil, has brought results, however. This was first noticeable in the appointment by the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce of an agricultural committee. Members of this committee were not content to merely pose as such. They were men who believed in doing as well as talking,

though a considerable amount of the latter was also necessary. It was through their efforts that the county commissioners were led recently to appropriate $14,000 toward the increase of the county's agricultural advisory force. ... This advisory force will have an office in the court house, suitably furnished. It will also be provided with a stenographer, so there will always be someone in the office during business hours. Mr. Watson, being the county agent at the 'Gateway of Florida,' naturally has a large amount of correspondence to attend to, in addition to his other duties. A permanent exhibit of the products of Duval County soil will be maintained in the office for the benefit of interested visitors. All of this constitutes an agricultural advisory force probably equalled in no other county in the South. The study of local agricultural problems and the dissemination of agricultural knowledge that will result from this liberal action must in time make the farmers of the county highly efficient tillers of the soil. Farmers from other States, or from abroad, will be able to inspect specimens of the products of the county's soil. ... All this will help greatly in the settlement of the county with a desirable class of farmers and in the improvement of its capabilities."

Flour Market An Oklahoma City dispatch to the press of November 28 states that an improvement in the domestic flour trade was reported by leading Oklahoma mills for the week ended November 22. A majority of mills reported a continuation of the slump in export orders, some of them receiving no inquiries whatever from countries that formerly were excellent buyers. The increase of domestic buying, which is spread over a large territory, has warranted some of the leading mills in discontinuing efforts to obtain new export business.

Freight Rates The Journal of Commerce for November 26 says: "It is usually supposed that reduction of freight rates will inure directly to the advantage of the grower of wheat, corn and other farm products. Nothing of the kind can be expected. The freight rates at present do not come out of the farmer, but are paid by the consumer, and a change in them will be far more likely to benefit the buyer of farm products than the grower. Take the case, for example, of a purchaser of wheat at New York. The price of wheat is established as a matter of world competition on the exchanges of the principal growing countries, such ad England, the Argentine and the United States. The man who buys the wheat in New York buys it at a figure which is locally fixed as the outcome of a general process of competition and represents the price of the wheat delivered at a certain point, say Chicago. If he wants to get the actual wheat for export he must bring it to New York and, conversely, if he wants to import it from Argentina he must pay the freight thereon. Such shifting of freight rates as occurs will be affected in no way whatever in the farmer's favor by a reduction of charges, except in so far as such reduction may lead to stronger demand, larger consumption and hence higher prices. This is a factor which is likely to be negligible. The effect of lower freight rates on the railroads, however, can not be ignored or misunderstood. It will necessarily be that of depleting their already unduly reduced revenues with the result that whether farmer or consumer gets the advantage of lower freights the railroad must undergo a more than proportionate damage to the ultimate injury of all classes in the community."

Tobacco Production and Marketing

Frederick Simpich is the author of an extensive article on tobacco production, marketing and consumption in The Country Gentleman for November 29. He says in part: "It's a truism of the tobacco world that it's not the grower, but the dealer and manufacturer, who makes money -- rain or shine. Who ever saw cigars or cigarettes get cheaper, just because the price of raw leaf happened to drop? Consumption increases amazingly; so does production. But the bigger the crop giant grows, the harder he is for planters to handle. Somehow, there's so often a bit more tobacco than there should be -- to give growers a steady year-in-and-year-out profit. Usually it's a buyer's market. This very season, overproduction loomed. Happily, it was thwarted. The South had too much rain; then the wild-fire pest. In Connecticut, drought; then hail. These were accidents. Next year they may not happen. Some say we now have so much surplus tobacco on hand that growers are in a poor strategic position. July first, tobacco stocks were 1,800,000,000 pounds, enough to last us about two years and nine months. Our crop this year, though short, may amount to 1,200,000,000 pounds. We use about 650,000,000 pounds a year, and export about 500,000,000 pounds. Though it is true that, for curing purposes, factories like to hold leaf from two to three years before working it up, it is still apparent that we are piling up too much surplus tobacco -- from the grower's standpoint. Down in the Kentucky Burley region, men are worried. Many favor a 'cut out' of the whole 1925 crop. 'The movement has already gained great headway, and it is probable that 75 to 80 per cent of the farmers are in favor of it, in order to reach the end of what they believe to be a surplus of tobacco on hand,' said J. Sherman Porter, of the Burley Cooperative Association. This association, which includes 80 per cent of the Burley growers, is taking no part -- as an organization -- in this campaign for a cut-out. Its officials say this would violate the Sherman Law. And anyway, even should the association induce all its members not to plant, such a stand might only lead nonmembers to increase their acreage. If a cut-out is achieved it will mean that both members and nonmembers will have to agree among themselves to do it. It is complex this problem of the tobacco grower. It is affected by men's tastes -- by the whims of the whole smoking and chewing world, as well as the menace of too much tobacco. ... To see more plainly, then, the problem of the American grower, we must look at some big changes which are sweeping over the tobacco industry. These changes call for the old types of tobacco -- but in new proportions, here and abroad. ... The Department of Agriculture makes surveys of intentions to plant. But it should do more than simply gather these valuable figures. It should take the results of these surveys and shoot them right back at the tobacco growers -- through the very rural mail men that make the original reports -- saying in plain English 'Plant 20 per cent less of this, or that, or you'll lose money.' The moral effect would be enormous. Uncle Sam owes his tobacco growers every service he can properly render."

Wool Sales in Oregon

A Portland, Oreg., dispatch to the press of November 28 states that proceeds of sales of wool by the Pacific Cooperative Wool Growers have been satisfactory for the 1924 clip. The average net return has been 43 3/4 cents a pound for fine wool, 44 1/4 cents for medium and 40 cents for coarse.

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Nov. 28: Chicago hog prices closed at $9.55 for the top; $8.20 to $9.10 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $7 to $12.25; butcher cows and heifers $3.25 to $11.25; feeder steers $4.50 to $7.50; light and medium weight veal calves $8.25 to $10.25.

New York sacked Round white potatoes mostly $1.10 to $1.15 per 100 pounds in eastern cities; 85¢ f.o.b. Rochester. Maine bulk Green Mountains $1.25 to $1.30 in New York; 50 to 55¢ f.o.b. Presque Isle. Eastern Shore Virginia yellow varieties of sweet potatoes advanced sharply closing at $5 to $6 per bbl. for best stock in leading markets. Cabbage irregular in eastern markets, slightly stronger in the Middle West. New York Danish type cabbage sold at $20 to $25 bulk per ton for best stock in eastern cities; $12 to $15 f.o.b. Rochester. New York yellow varieties of onions mostly $2.10 to $2.25 sacked per 100 pounds, top of $2.50 in New York.

Closing prices 92 score butter: New York 47 1/2¢; Philadelphia 46¢; Boston 46¢.

Grain prices quoted Nov. 28: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.54 to $1.75. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.68 to $1.71; Kansas City $1.61 to $1.65. No. 2 hard winter Chicago $1.55 1/2; St. Louis $1.55 1/2; Kansas City $1.48 to $1.56. No. 2 mixed corn Chicago $1.13 3/4; Minneapolis $1.09 3/4 to $1.12 3/4; Kansas City $1.06 1/2 to $1.07. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.16 to $1.17; Minneapolis $1.15 3/4 to $1.16 1/4; St. Louis $1.15 to $1.16; Kansas City $1.08 1/2. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.14 3/4 to $1.15 1/2; Minneapolis $1.10 3/4 to $1.13 3/4. No. 2 white corn Chicago $1/12 1/2 to $1.14 1/4; St. Louis $1.15; Kansas City $1.07 1/2. No. 3 white oats Chicago 50 1/2 to 52 1/4¢; Minneapolis 48 7/8¢; St. Louis 52 1/4 to 53¢; Kansas City 52¢.

Spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 37 points, closing at 23.33¢ per lb. New York December future contracts down 38 points, closing at 23.37¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Nov. 28,	Nov. 26,	Nov. 28, 1923
20 Industrials	111.10	110.15	92.41
20 R R stocks	96.25	96.48	81.48

(Wall St. Jour., Nov. 29)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XV,no.52 Section 1 December 1, 1924

President to Attend Livestock Show

According to the press to-day, President Coolidge will leave Washington on Wednesday on his first western trip since he was elected to the Presidency. He will attend the livestock exposition and will return on Saturday.

Congress Convenes

The final session of the Sixty-eighth Congress will convene at noon to-day, and it is expected to be one of the quietest sessions in history. As the program stands to-day, about the only matters of importance which are likely to come up are the Government supply bills, the Muscle Shoals proposition, the Isle of Pines treaty and the President's veto of the bill to increase postal salaries. Tax reduction, farm legislation and the World Court are among the large questions which leaders of both parties agree have little chance of being considered in this Congress. The first business to come before the Senate following the reading of Mr. Coolidge's message will be Muscle Shoals legislation. Under unanimous agreement reached in the last session the matter must be kept before the Senate until disposed of. Several propositions, including Henry Ford's, will be considered. The fact that Mr. Ford has withdrawn his offer has not served to take him out of the running. It is the general belief that the whole proposition will be referred back to the committee on agriculture, with instructions to report out a new bill in the first session of the Sixty-ninth Congress. (Press, Dec.1.)

Potato Marketing

A Portland, Me., dispatch to the press of December 1 states that L.S.Bean and O.J.Bishop, of Presque Isle, in Aroostook County, have sailed for England as agents for potato growers, independents and the Maine Potato Growers' Exchange. One carload has been shipped and ten carloads will be stowed in the hold of a steamer that will clear soon. It is represented that there is a shortage of potatoes in the United Kingdom and these agents will demonstrate to commission merchants there the fine grade of Maine potatoes.

Cotton Carry-over

A New Orleans dispatch to the press of December 1 states that the latest cotton crop estimates from private sources range from slightly over 13,000,000 bales to 13,400,000 bales, exclusive of linters. One authority has estimated linters at 800,000 bales and predicted that the carry-over at the end of the season would reach a little above 4,000,000 bales. A crop estimate of 14,200,000 bales, including linters, to leave a carry-over little larger than 4,000,000 bales, presupposes a decided increase in consumption over last season. That the expectation of a considerable increase is warranted is indicated by the steady rise in weekly mill takings, as well as by the large gain in exports this season over last. According to Secretary Hester of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, exports to date this season exceed those of last season to corresponding date by 751,400 bales.

Section 2

Agricultural Commission

The Kansas City Star for November 26 says: "Neither a commission's recommendation nor legislative enactments are going to

1 have any effect. A short corn crop, soft corn, uncertainty as to what kind and class of cattle to feed and a demand insufficient to care for available supplies of fat cattle are conditions that will have to adjust themselves. It may bé all right for a commission to study the situation; in fact, it has become a sort of a Government function to do so, but it can only report on things that have transpired and become history. In reality, the cattle situation has started its own adjustment, and how far this goes toward placing it on a paying basis will depend on demand for beef. The reduced number of cattle put on feed this fall, a recent heavy run of short fed steers and the scarcity of corn to feed cattle for later months indicate that supplies of fat cattle and aggregate pounds of beef will be materially short of last winter. What the demand side will be is yet undetermined. The law of supply and demand will operate without a commission's recommendation."

2 An editorial on the President's agricultural commission in The Newark (N.J.) News for November 24 says: "....How far it will get nobody can say. It will not be hurried, and there is some satisfaction in that. If it were going to be ready with specific recommendations when Congress meets next Monday for the short term, its action could be dismissed as an empty gesture. Fortunately, that is not the temper of the commission, which has set out to survey the whole field in great detail....A prime need is the stabilization of the cattle business, which is at a financial low ebb, despite means being provided through the intermediate credit banks and other resources for financing for a period up to three years. By a sudden shift in supply and demand the raisers of cereals this year are in much improved condition, and the cotton planter, of course, is sitting on top of the world. As concerns the grain farmer, a year or two hence may find all this changed. Instead of a world shortage there may be an oversupply of what he raises for export. The cotton planter is not in the same class because most of the world looks to us for its cotton, and the demand for some years is likely to continue high. It is to obviate the intensity of depression in these cycles that the commission will work, undoubtedly giving consideration to improving the manner and extent of cooperative selling and to the whole problem of transportation. Likewise, it will consider diversified crops, conservation of natural resources, and the part reclamation projects play for or against agricultural prosperity. The farmer's plight is that, in the nature of the case, he has to be a year to year gambler on prices he can not control, planting without any knowledge of what he will get for what he reaps. In the labor field it is comparable to the periodic unemployment and shifting from base to base that is the portion of the unskilled, particularly, in a country where normal unemployment runs as high as 1,500,000 pairs of hands all the time."

3 The Louisville Courier-Journal for November 28 says: "The Agricultural Commission which may recommend and the Congress which may adopt a plan of Federally-encouraged cooperative marketing systems will act wisely. Within the last five years millions of dollars

worth of products ranging from raisins, prunes and citrus fruits on the Pacific slope to fish and cigar leaf in New England, have been marketed by the cooperative method. Cotton, potatoes, eggs, milk, wheat, tobacco, strawberries and apples are among the products of the farm which have been successfully handled on a cooperative basis. In many localities, as the participants in this sensible form of crop selling can testify, the system has proved the economic salvation of groups of growers, where elsewhere hardship has been the farmer's lot."

Asiatic Cotton Markets

Commerce Monthly for December says: "The Far East absorbs the bulk of cotton manufactures moving in international trade and thus indirectly but powerfully influences the world market for American cotton. Last season the United States consumed and exported from its own crop a total of 11,000,000 bales. This year a larger crop lends interest to the outlook for increased exports in the current season and to the trend of affairs in the East which will have an important bearing on the volume of export demand. The cotton spinning mills in China during the 1923-24 season were operating at about three-fourths of capacity while in Japan spinning was nearly 15 per cent below full-time schedules. For the fiscal year ended March 31,1924, yarn production in India was also low, running nearly 15 per cent less than in the previous fiscal year. It is difficult to put these facts into terms of actual cotton but it may be said roughly that if mills in Japan and China were to go on full time this year and Indian production were to reach that of 1922-23 the total consumption in these three countries would be around 1,000,000 bales larger than that of last season. The bulk of the mill consumption in these eastern countries is cotton of Indian and Chinese growth but it is as a market for goods manufactured in Europe that these countries come in most direct relation with the American crop. Before the war China was the world's largest market for cotton yarns, but this trade was divided about evenly between India and Japan. Britain's exports to Chinese markets in general were not in a class to be competitive with those of eastern origin. As a piece-goods market, however, China accounted for 10 per cent of Britain's total output. China has placed over 2,500,000 spindles in its mills since 1917 but there has been no corresponding expansion in weaving equipment. The Chinese mills in 1913 consumed the equivalent of 400,000 American bales of cotton while the consumption of cotton in the mills last season was about 1,300,000 bales. In the meantime net yarn imports have fallen from 358,000,000 lbs. in 1913 to 92,000,000 lbs. in 1923. The difference in these two yarn figures would be equivalent to about 600,000 bales of cotton so that the expansion of yarn production in China has been to a large extent offset by the reduced consumption of foreign yarns. What has probably happened is that high prices of imported goods have either curtailed consumption altogether or have forced the peasant back to greater use of the hand loom. Although China expended within 5 per cent as much money on cotton goods in foreign markets in 1923 as in 1913 the quantity obtained was not much more than half that of the prewar year....These facts certainly afford a foundation for the belief that the increase in raw cotton exports from the United States to Great Britain this season is a real indication of a greater consumption in future months."

British Wheat Introduction

Country Life (London) for November 22 says: "To the outsider the introduction of a new wheat to the market appears to be a very simple matter. On the contrary, it is a very complicated process, and has been especially so in the case of Yeoman II, which has now been offered to the seed merchants. We use the ordinary expression, but it does not quite accurately describe what has taken place. The Council of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany has resolved to offer for sale this autumn, through established dealers in seed corn, from two to three thousand quarters of the wheat which has been named Yeoman II. The dealers are to resell the wheat to farmers at the price of six guineas a quarter less 5 per cent discount for cash. Previous discoveries of the same kind as this new Yeoman have not been sold for general use with so much precaution....Professor Biffen has been working upon this wheat for many years; indeed, it has been kept in hand much longer than was its predecessor, the first Yeoman.. .Professor Biffen works for the Institute of Agricultural Botany, and his anxiety that his labor should meet with a substantial return is not in the slightest degree selfish. It arises solely from his desire that the funds of the institute should be augmented....Unless the institute is able to obtain the services of first-rate experts in all departments it can never exert its potential strength as a help and educator of those engaged in husbandry. Yeoman II was held up so long in order that the stock should accumulate. This year's crop was grown for the institute by 30 farmers in the eastern counties, mostly in Essex. Thus it is that the council is able to offer for sale two or three thousand quarters...."

Chicago's Grain Market

Glenn Griswold, writing from Chicago to the press of November 29 says: "The big dealings in grain on the Chicago Board of Trade have afforded opportunity for economists and trade leaders to study some of the knotty problems that have arisen in the last year, and at least one of these authorities has reached the conclusion that a definite change is occurring in the trade. A fair reply to the question of what ailed the board was not possible during the summer, when trade at times was almost at a standstill, because then all blame was laid upon the interference of politicians and none was traceble to natural economic causes or mistakes of the exchange authorities. The more complete exposition of the troubles has just been issued by Rudolf A. Clemen, economist of the Illinois Merchants' Trust Company, who has investigated all phases and tried to reach an unbiased conclusion. What has interested observers most has been that Chicago unquestionably was losing prestige as a leader of the grain world. Mr. Clemen finds that it is declining as a grain trade center, indeed, he adds, 'some have gone so far as to state that it is losing ground rapidly as a market for domestic distribution, and that, because of its advantages in Lake and rail shipping rates, it is receding into a concentration point for export trade.' Such small markets as Cedar Rapids, Burlington, Des Moines, Sioux City and other have been cutting a wider swath in the trade at Chicago's expense, which naturally brings the question as to why, because this is of vital importance to the 'Windy City.' The causes, according to Mr. Clemen, are several. First, with the development of Federal grain standards and the supervision of licensed grain inspectors, these small markets have the trading basis formerly enjoyed exclusively by Chicago and other

large markets. Under the system of Federal standards and supervision, buyers may now make purchases without the attendant charges imposed if the grain passes through Chicago."

Extension Work

A correspondent of The Rural New-Yorker for November 29 says: "Personally, I am a bit shocked at the way the College of Agriculture is handling extension work. No farmer is employed for it except a little from a few who undoubtedly will be cast off before long. When the Agricultural Department handled institutes, etc., it was important that most of the workers had experience. Now it is college boys to the front. The Farm Bureau, I fear, will some day get a reaction from this, and they are having their hands full to live now." Commenting upon this statement, an editorial in the same issue says: "College men, some of them quite immature, are being substituted for experienced farmers in extension or institute work. Before long, if the present method prevails, the college will hold a somewhat arbitrary monopoly on this method of farm teaching. Starting with this evident fact, or tendency, the real question is whether this is the best plan for conducting extension work. Thus far there seems to have been no argument about it. The college people have apparently assumed that their plan of concentrated authority is best, and they have gone ahead with it, perhaps without consulting the farmers. We have our own opinion on the subject, but many years of experience in working with farm people have taught us that in matters of this sort we should first learn what the farmers themselves desire....We feel that too many of the schemes proposed for helping farmers have developed into class or society privileges, with the advantages going to officials, institutions or controlling groups, rather than to the rank and file of country people. That is largely due to the fact that plain, working farmers are seldom interested or consulted at the starting of these enterprises. We feel that both safety and sense in the future of farming lie in giving those who are to be taught and 'improved' a fair chance with the teachers in deciding how the work shall be done."

South Africa Seeks Farmer Immigrants

The press of November 28 states that a drive has been launched for farmer immigrants to the Union of South Africa. English newspapers throughout the Empire are pointing out the advantages of such migration, and the Union itself, cooperating with the 1820 Memorial Settlers' Association, is offering almost unprecedented inducements for the land exploiter of the proper type. The 1820 Memorial Settlers' Association, which acts as a kind of agency for the Union in securing reputable settlers, offers qualified farmers not only a reduced steamship fare to South Africa, but also a course of free training in farming for a period of one to two years with a farmer of repute in South Africa. In addition, the association promises to give the settler expert advice on land purchase.

Wool Prices

Auction sales of wool are in progress at London and in Australia and New Zealand. Thus far a slight increase in prices, especially in the medium varieties, has been a marked feature of such sales. There is said to be comparatively little bidding for American account at London, but this reported to have been in evidence elsewhere and to have aided in keeping up price levels. Whether the higher prices will continue to prevail is yet a question.(Press,Nov.30.)

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products For the week ended November 29: Chicago hog prices ranged from 10¢ lower to 30¢ higher than a week ago, closing at $9.60 for the top and $8.30 to $9.60 for the bulk. Better grade yearling steers 25 to 40¢ higher; heifers 25¢ higher; veal calves 50¢ higher; stockers and feeders weak to 15¢ lower.

Potato markets unsettled. New York sacked Round Whites closed at $1.10 to $1.12 per 100 pounds in eastern cities; mostly 85¢ f.o.b. Rochester. Cabbage advanced sharply in Chicago; barely steady in other city markets; slightly weaker at shipping points. New York Danish type mostly $20 to $25 bulk per ton in eastern markets; $12 to $14 f.o.b. Rochester. Onions steady in Chicago, stronger elsewhere. New York yellow varieties closed at $2.25 to $2.50 sacked per 100 pounds in New York. Apples fairly steady. New York Baldwins $4.75 to $5.50 per barrel in Pittsburgh. Illinois Jonathans $7.50 to $8 in Chicago.

Butter markets very firm and higher during the week. Principal feature was continued scarcity of fine grades. Greater interest in storage butter, and withdrawals heavy. Production still decreasing. No export or import movement of consequence.

Closing prices 92 score butter: New York 46 1/2¢; Chicago 50¢; Philadelphia 46¢; Boston 46¢.

Cheese markets firm. Trading fairly active. Distributors confident and holding to asking prices. Lighter production has cut down receipts and to some measure strengthened the feeling. Wholesale prices on Wisconsin primary markets November 28: Single Daisies 20¢; Double Daisies 19 1/2¢; Longhorns 20¢; Square Prints 22 1/2¢.

Grain market fluctuating, closing on practically last week's level. Wheat futures nervous with claims light country stocks and Argentine crop damage offsetting lower foreign markets and rumors of reselling. Corn firm after last week's decline with good demand balancing increasing offerings. Oats practically lower.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 36 points during week, closing at 23.26¢ per lb. New York December future contracts declined 37 points, closing at 23.28¢.(Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Nov. 29,	Nov. 28,	Nov. 28, 1923
20 Industrials	111.38	111.10	92.41
20 R.R.stocks	96.35	96.25	81.48

(Wall St. Jour., Dec. 1.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XV,no.53 Section 1 December 2, 1924

Congressional Legislation

The Washington Post to-day says: "Expectations that the legislative hopper would be jammed following a recess of six months, failed to materialize yesterday, when no more than a score of bills of general public interest were introduced in the House, and none in the Senate. ...A joint resolution calling upon the President to appoint a commission of three Representatives and two Senators to consider proposals and negotiate for the lease of Muscle Shoals, was introduced by Representative Wright of Georgia. The commission would have no power to dispose of the property, but would report its recommendations to Congress in 30 days... A bill which would allow entry of aliens whose views were approved prior to July 1, 1924, irrespective of the immigration act of 1924, was introduced by Representative Perlman of New York....A bill by Representative Crisp, Democrat, of Georgia, would extend the existence of the world war debt commission two years from next February 9...."

Tomorrow the President's budget message, together with the 1925 budget, will be received, and when its reading is concluded, Senator Underwood will move that the Muscle Shoals problem be made the unfinished business of the Senate.

College Men Win Livestock Honors

A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day says: "Textbook herdsmen from a dozen American agricultural colleges fortified the case for 'book learning' December 1 by taking most of the honors in the opening day's competition at the twenty-fifth international livestock exposition. When the awards of the State universities and agricultural colleges were computed, exponents of 'practical farming' and barnyard methods were routed...."

Baking Merger

A New York dispatch to the press to-day states that incorporation of the Purity Bakeries Corporation, with authorized capital of $15,000,000 par value 7 per cent cumulative preferred stock, 400,000 shares of Class A stock and 500,000 shares of Class B stock, another step in the consolidation movement in the baking industry throughout the country, was announced December 1. The certificate of incorporation was filed in Delaware. The new corporation's initial move, it is understood, will be to take over the Purity Baking Company, of Minnesota; the Tristate Baking Company, of Michigan; Banner Grocers' Baking Company, of Cincinnati, and Grocers' Baking Company, of Indianapolis. This will give the organization control of fifteen plants in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Minn.; Indiapolis, Detroit, Flint, Battle Creek and Jackson, Mich., and Cincinnati, Toledo, Columbus, Hamilton and Akron,O. Negotiations for acquiring additional properties were said to be in progress.

Dairymen and Imitation Butter

A Salt Lake City dispatch to the press to-day states that dairymen of Idaho have started a campaign against what they consider unfair competition from manufacturers of so-called butter composed of vegetable oils from the Philippines, mixed with a small quantity of dairy products.

Section 2

Butter Imports

An editorial in Pennsylvania Farmer for November 29 says: "It is not Denmark, the noted dairy country, that is most to be feared as a rival in the American dairy products markets in years to come. Rather, we should expect our keenest competition from Australia and New Zealand, on the opposite side of the world, and from Argentina in South America. That, at any rate, is the way the world's butter business will develop in the future, in the opinion of Charles W. Holman, secretary of the National Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation. In his argument for the proper adjustment of butter tariff schedules Mr. Holman points out that Denmark ships butter to the United States only when she has to do so to protect her major markets in Europe. She has very nearly reached the limit of expansion of her dairy industry, while the development of the butter making business has only begun in the three countries of the Southern Hemisphere mentioned above. While American dairymen needn't fear a flood of butter from the antipodes unless a high tariff wall is raised at once, it is interesting to note that Australian and New Zealand farmers are even now shipping dairy products half way around the world to England. And they must find it profitable or they wouldn't be expanding."

Chicago Cotton Market

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal of December 1 says: "This morning, December 1, marks the opening of the cotton futures market in Chicago, making the third one of its kind in the United States. The New York and New Orleans Cotton Exchanges have nothing but best wishes for this new-born sister and hope to see it develop into a broad, hedging market, which is the principal function of all contract markets. At least 80 per cent of the contracts dealt in on the two old exchanges are hedges. In its simplest form a hedge is a price insurance for spot cotton which someone has either bought or sold. In its journey from the farm to the dealer in finished goods a bale of cotton is hedged with every change of hands. Cotton is handled with a smaller margin of profit than any other commodity, with the possible exception of the grains dealt in on the exchanges. If price fluctuations were not insured against in the way they now are the risk would be so great as to make cotton such a highly speculative commodity that no one could afford to handle it without a large margin between the buying and selling price. This, it is needless to say, would be paid by the producer himself. Because of the hedging practice every man who raises a bale of cotton can sell it on any business day of the year. This is possible only because through the future contract markets every producer in the United States is brought in immediate contact with every dealer, every mill owner and every consumer of finished goods in all parts of the world. The hedged contracts that are bought and sold on the exchanges are not, as they are popularly supposed to be, merely speculative transactions, but the greater part of them represent actual dealings of those who have cotton either to buy or to sell...This is the main function of the cotton exchanges and no other medium has ever yet been devised to furnish a protection equal to it. The United States is the producer of a large percentage of the world's cotton crop. It is essential that the marketing facilities be as broad as possible and it is in this work that Chicago is now to join."

Cooperatives

Cooperative organizations, through which groups of producers or consumers band themselves together to deal in commercial markets, have become "one of the most prominent features of the economic structure of the world," the Federal Trade Commission declared November 29 in a special report. A description of the cooperative situation in fifteen foreign countries, prepared largely from data collected by Chairman Thompson and Dr. William Notz, chief of the commission's export trade division, was given in the document. There are now 285,000 cooperative organizations in the world, the commission estimated, through which 120,000,000 persons carry on cooperative selling or buying. In Europe, it was declared, the shock of the war and the postwar adjustment found in the cooperative organizations "in many cases the strongest basis upon which reconstruction" could be laid. "In some of the larger countries of Europe, like the United Kingdom, Germany and France," the report continued, "the consumers' cooperative societies rank among the largest producers and distributers of necessaries of life. In England and Germany nearly half the population is affiliated with the consumers, wholesale and retail societies." The net surplus of the English cooperatives in 1922 amounted to $70,000,000, it was declared, while the Union of Swiss Consumers' had a surplus of 14,455,218 Swiss francs in 1921. With freedom from State interference educational effort has served to allow the large scale development of the cooperative enterprises, the report said. Some European methods might not be wholly compatible with American conditions, it was pointed out, but room for development along the same line within the United States was suggested and discussed. Farmers' cooperatives, the report said, might profitably extend their efforts for more direct marketing of foodstuffs to consumers, and wholesale cooperative associations for dealing in agricultural products might be encouraged. Cooperation in rural districts for the supply of credit, for the distribution of electric power, coal and retailing generally, and extension of cooperative enterprise for export of American products were among the possibilities seen. (Press, Nov.30.)

Cotton

A London dispatch to the press of December 1 states that the British cotton trade has fallen into a narrow groove. Speculative interest continues at a minimum and prices are still considered too high to encourage operations on the constructive side. In the textile trade there has recently been reported a sharp falling off in business, although this is partly offset by the decision of certain mill owners using American cotton to increase their working hours from thirty-two to thirty-nine and one-quarter hours weekly. The dullness in the cotton trade is attributed to some extent to the fact that there is little likelihood of an immediate rise in prices.

Cuba's Grape Ban

A Havana dispatch to the press of December 1 states that the Spanish Chamber of Commerce, it is understood, will make representations regarding the Mediterranean fly, which is believed to be brought to Cuba by grapes from Almeria, Spain. The importation of these grapes has been prohibited.

Dairy Industry in Britain

An editorial in The Field (London) says: "...The dairying industry in its manifold forms had its innings last month, when even Londoners, not usually eager observers of agricultural work, crowded

the Royal Agricultural Hall to inspect the numerous exhibits and to obtain first-hand knowledge of the processes of drawing and manipulating milk. From now until the Christmas vacation the winter fat stock shows will take first place in the program. It is this unending succession of outstanding features, renewed when the cycle is complete, that invests the farming industry with one of its most fascinating and distinctive characteristics....The position of breeds may have fluctuated somewhat since the keeping of records became common, but it is significant that strains rather than breeds have been affected by the application of the practical test in pail filing. Not a single variety has been discarded on account of poor milking returns, or, indeed, has lost considerable ground. What has happened is that their owners had to set themselves to improve the milking capacity of their cattle or withdraw the breed from comparison with others. The enterprising example of the few stirred the rest to action, and the result, as has been implied, is a remarkable increase in the level attained by all breeds. Whether or not the larger yields of milk represent corresponding financial benefit to the farmers is still a subject for exhaustive inquiry; but, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, it is justifiable to conclude that a liberal margin remains, after all expenditure has been met, to swell the revenue that the owner can claim as his own. It would be invidious to specify breeds where all have acquitted themselves so creditably. The dairy cattle of the country have been improved in their milking performances almost beyond recognition, and it can now be claimed that no country is better served by its dairy breeds, or has a wider variety to choose from, than Great Britain. In other respects corresponding progress has been noticeable in the development of dairy farming, cheese, butter and the lesser,but still important, supplementary products, all advancing towards a higher and uniform standard of excellence."

Farm Labor

Making public November 30 the results of five years' study of employment agencies, the Russell Sage Foundation declared that orderly recruiting and distribution of farm labor was one of the biggest questions confronting public employment agencies, and that such agencies had thus far "largely failed to function in this field." It is remarked that wartime conditions forced some betterment in the handling of farm labor, but that the crippling of the Federal service had largely offset this. The foundation's investigators found that the farmer's unfamiliarity with office methods was one of the chief obstacles to successful dealing with the farmer on the one hand and the seeker after work on the other. The report said that there was an unparalleled opportunity for organizing and distributing workers in the central wheat belt, where the demand for farm labor is highly seasonal and where there assembles each summer the largest army of transient workers to be found anywhere in America. (Press,Dec.1.)

Flour Exports

The shifts in the direction of wheat flour exports from the United States caused by the war has proved to a considerable extent to be temporary, according to a review of the trade by the National Bank of Commerce, Europe's exigency drew supplies from other customers of the United States as well as stimulating increased production of both wheat and flour in this country, says the bank, but since the close of the war the general tendency has been for this

trade to return to its accustomed channels. It is pointed out, however that recent figures indicate there are still exceptions worthy of note and that definite gains may be counted.

Rates on Horses

A readjustment of rates on horses and mules from Fort Worth, Tex. to nearly all points in the southwestern quarter of the United States was ordered November 28 by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The new rates will be on the basis of from 24 to 27 cents for 100 miles per hundred pounds, ranging upward to 78 cents for 1,000 miles. Notice was given eastern railroads and shippers that it would hear, beginning February 4, evidence and argument on the reasonableness of present class freight rates in the territory east of the Indiana-Illinois line and north of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers.

Wool Prices

The Journal of Commerce for November 26 says: "Although the indications point toward high and still higher prices for woolen goods as the price of raw wool advances there is no concealing the fact that the prospect fills manufacturers and distributers with nervousness. The anomalous features of the situation, that is, restricted demand for finished goods combines with a contemporaneous rise in prices of raw materials, have long persisted. For a time American mills stayed out of the raw wool market as far as possible, but their actions have been powerless to affect price trends. With stocks of raw material exhausted they must reenter the market at an even more unfavorable time in order to cover their immediate needs, and consequently help prices to pursue their upward movement. On the surface, it would appear that not even the undeniable wool shortage and the reduced exports of the chief wool growing countries could prevail against a widespread conviction that larger mill activities are incompatible with higher prices. The answer is that the American situation does not adequately reflect world conditions, and American bidders for raw wool can not dictate the market price. The Far East, notably Japan, is taking wool in increasing quantities where it used to take only cotton, and continental Europe, particularly France, is actively bidding for the limited supplies of wool. These countries, it may be noted, can well afford to pay high prices for raw materials when their other outlays, especially for labor, are relatively so restricted. The French woolen industry is undeniably flourishing, to the fear and chagrin of the Bradford manufacturers, who view with alarm the statistics of imports from France. For the ten months ending October 31 Great Britain imported 12,400,000 pounds worth of woolen and worsted yarns and manufactures; 7,600,000 pounds worth were imported in the same period for 1922, and 9,600,000 pounds worth in the first ten months of 1923. The great proportion of these importations came from France, and obviously so long as France continues to enjoy the export premium that is caused by depreciation of the franc her mills will continue to operate at high speed.... The fact is that the cost of the raw material is only one factor and not always a controlling factor in determining the prices of finished productions. It is, percentually speaking, a relatively minor factor indeed. However, as other productive expenses, primarily wages, and it should be added the large additions to selling price demanded by distributers from ultimate consumers have resisted adjustment, the refusal of the price of raw material to fall assumes unusual importance. When, as in the case of France, or even Japan, savings can be effected elsewhere

high wool prices are no obstacle to continued production and sale. So it is that our woolen manufacturers feel the effect of European competition within their own markets. It is a competition which protective tariffs are powerless to avert because it reaches back into world markets and relates to prices conditioned by world demand and world supply. That is why our manufacturers have to pay higher prices for wool, when their judgment tells them that additions to production cost can not be added to ultimate selling prices without grave danger of loss of consumptive outlets."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Dec.1: Chicago hog prices closed at $9.70 for the top and $8.50 to $9.50 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $7.00 to $12.25; butcher cows and heifers $3.25 to $11.25; feeder steers $4.50 to $7.50; light and medium weight veal calves $8.25 to $10.50.

New York sacked Round White potatoes $1.05 to $1.25 per 100 pounds in eastern cities; 80 to 85¢ f.o.b. Rochester. Maine bulk Green Mountains $1.15 to $1.30 in city markets; 50 to 55¢ f.o.b. Presque Isle. New Jersey yellow sweet potatoes 35 to 50¢ higher in New York at $2.50 to $3 per bushel hamper. New York yellow onions ranged $2 to $2.50 sacked per 100 pounds in eastern markets; best stock $2 f.o.b. Rochester. New York cabbage, Danish type $3 to $6 lower at $17 to $25 bulk per ton in eastern markets; fairly steady at $12 to $14 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Baldwin apples closed slightly stronger at $5.50 to $6 per barrel in New York. Illinois Jonathans $7.50 to $8 in midwestern cities.

Closing prices of 92 score butter: New York 47¢; Philadelphia 47¢; Boston 46¢.

Grain prices quoted December 1: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.52 to $1.73. No.2 red winter Chicago $1.68 1/4 to $1.68 1/2; St. Louis $1.70 to $1.71; Kansas City $1.61 to $1.65. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.55 1/2 to $1.57 3/4; St. Louis $1.55 to $1.55 1/2; Kansas City $1.49 to $1.56. No.2 mixed corn Chicago $1.15 to $1.15 1/2; Minneapolis $1.10 to $1.13; Kansas City $1.07 1/2 to $1.08. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.17 to $1.17 1/2; Minneapolis $1.15 to $1.15 1/2; St.Louis $1.15 1/2; Kansas City $1.09 1/2 to $1.10. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.16 to $1.16 1/2; Minneapolis $1.11 to $1.14; No.2 white corn Chicago $1.16; St.Louis $1.14; Kansas City $1.09 1/2 to $1.10; No.3 white oats 50 3/4 to 52 1/2¢; Minneapolis 47 5/8 to 47 7/8¢; Central St.Louis 54 to 55¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 57 points, closing at 22.69¢ per lb. New York December future contracts down 63 points, closing at 22.65¢.(Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Dec. 1,	Nov. 29,	Dec. 1, 1923
20 Industrials	110.44	111.38	93.15
20 R.R.stocks	96.28	96.35	81.00

(Wall St. Jour., Dec. 2.)

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DAILY DIGEST

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Vol.XV,no.54 Section 1 December 3, 1924

The President's Message

In transmitting the budget estimates for the fiscal year 1925-26 to Congress yesterday, President Coolidge indicated that another reduction in taxation would be possible next year if Congress followed out a policy of economy. The President suggested, however, that it would be advisable to delay action until the end of the fiscal year, when it would be possible to estimate more accurately the revenues collectable under the provisions of the new tax law. In a message accompanying the budget estimates President Coolidge said that present calculations placed the budget surplus at the end of the current fiscal year at $67,884,489 and the probable surplus at the end of the fiscal year 1925-26 at $373,743,714. He also called attention to the fact that this had been accomplished despite the fact that a 25 per cent reduction had been granted on income tax payments in 1924 and provision had been made to meet expenditures under the Soldier Bonus law. President Coolidge placed the total expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30 at $3,534,083,808 and for the fiscal year 1926 at $3,267,551,378, a decrease of $266,532,430 for 1926. These figures include payments on the public debt. If this program of gradually reducing the expenditures was followed out, the President indicated, a reduction in taxes might be expected. (Press, Dec. 3.)

Muscle Shoals Bill

A new plan for the operation of Muscle Shoals, under which it would be dedicated to the national defense and the production of nitrogen for explosives and fertilizers, is proposed in a bill introduced December 2 by Senator Underwood. (Press, Dec. 3.)

Chicago Cotton Market

A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day states that the local cotton market showed fair activity, with total sales for the day estimated at 30,000 bales. Local traders, spreaders and the South continue to take a lively interest in the market, which advanced in sympathy with New York and New Orleans and closed 15@28 points higher.

A New York dispatch says: "Inauguration of cotton trading on the Chicago Board of Trade apparently had no effect on prices or on the volume of business transacted on the New York Cotton Exchange."

Wheat Trophy to Canadian

A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day states that the new wheat king, named December 2 in the international hay and grain division of the International Livestock Exposition, is J.C.Mitchell, owner of a homestead quarter section at Dahinda, Sask. His exhibit was selected from 550 specimens from all parts of the United States and Canada. The winning sample, a bushel of hard red Spring variety, gave Canada her thirteenth grand championship in the fourteen years' history of the show. Mitchell, whose victory to-day made him champion for the third time in the past decade, took up a 160-acre homestead from the Dominion Government in 1907, when he left a cotton factory in Manchester, England, "to take up farming."

Section 2

Agricultural Exports

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for November 2 says: "Exports of domestic products made a material increase in October, the total being $518,357,000 against $392,207,000 a year ago. The honor for most of this great increase belongs to the farmers, whose products have been going abroad in unusual quantity. Beginning with January, exports steadily decreased until in July they were near those of February, 1922, which was the lowest point of the past four years. Since the end of July they have been on the upward grade and for the ten months of this calendar year they total $3,572,837,000 against $3,274,038,000 a year ago. The turn came with the newly harvested products, representing foodstuffs and raw materials. The new crop year for grain begins July 1 and from that date to the end of October the official figures show shipments of 122,000,000 bushels of wheat against 74,500,000 a year ago. The movement of wheat and wheat flour and rye and rye flour is certain to continue throughout the remainder of this calendar year. At the beginning of the cotton crop year--August 1--foreign stocks of cotton were at a low ebb. Since then the export movement has been heavy, in the four months amounting to 3,000,000 bales, or 656,000 more than last year. There is no reason to look for any material let-up in this movement. Foreign consumers of cotton will not take the chances of another bad year so long as there is a supply from the present crop available at reasonable prices. Farm products, therefore, can be expected to hold up the foreign trade for this year. When the figures for geographical distribution are published the reasons for this great increase will be apparent. It means mainly an increase in the purchasing power of Europe at the same time of a shortage of foodstuffs and cotton throughout the world. Europe predominates in our export trade, taking more than half of our shipments. Of this portion continental Europe takes a little more than half, or twice as much as our entire shipments to Asia. Germany, of course, is the greatest consumer in continental Europe and the shipments to that country show improved conditions there. Germany is buying more of the higher priced foodstuffs than at any time since the war. For instance, in 1923 its imports of butter for the whole year were $1,000,000 and in the first eight months of this year they were $62,000,000. It is also taking more fresh and dried fruits and other foods in the luxury class, indicating a higher standard of living. That the European situation is slowly improving is to be seen in our export trade, and at the same time a shortage of necessary foods and materials in Europe, of which we have an abundant supply, makes for an increase in our trade for the next few months."

Canadian Immigration

A press dispatch December 2 states that the success of the movement to transplant the starving inhabitants of the Hebrides Islands of Scotland to Canada under a plan of farm training and settlement instituted by Father R. A. McDonnell and Bishop Fallon of London, Ontario, is announced by the Canadian Pacific Railway, which has been instrumental in carrying out the transplantation. An announcement from the railroad says in part: "British Columbia has been active in arranging for the settlement of Hebrideans on Vancouver Island through the purchase of property which has reverted to the Government. It is also planned to place the newcomers on the small islands off the coast, where they can follow their traditional

pursuits of farming and fishing and be scarcely aware of their change of location."

Cooperative Marketing

The Press Herald and Maine Farmer for November 30 publishes a statement recently issued by James E. Boyle, professor of Rural Economy, Cornell University. In this Professor Boyle says in part: "Is it necessary to repeat here that the farm is not like a factory, in which output or supply can be controlled absolutely? The factory does not create a big surplus. History tells us of one great monopolist who said, 'I do not fix prices; I only limit my output and let competing buyers bid up the price.' A farmer's monopoly is useless and harmless. For, as with the raisin and prune monopolies, the high price brings immediate increase in acreage and very soon a big unsold surplus; and the big carry-over breaks the price, finally, to below cost of production, as happened with these two commodities in 1923. So much for the economic principles. The signed contract the 'tie-them-up-tight' idea, the legal compulsion theory--all these fail unless economies are realized and savings effected and real service performed. The 'California plan' to many persons means merely legal compulsion. But, even in California, they have lost most of their faith in the virtue of the contract....But the contract, with the accompanying promoter's talk about 'merchandising,' serves to fix the eyes of the farmers on prices as the immediate goal of the association. 'Price control' 'domination of the market,' becomes the association's aim and purpose. But this is the wrong economic basis on which to build--and will in the end bring disaster as the prune and apricot and raisin growers have demonstrated. Genuine cooperation, so far as the marketing of fruits and vegetables is concerned, means a quality production first. 'Ninety per cent of the marketing problem is solved on the farm,' says our foremost agricultural economist, Henry C. Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture. If the farmers can produce the quantity and quality the market wants, can grade and standardize it, they will find little difficulty in merchandising it in such a way as to effect savings both for themselves and the consumer."

Cotton Goods Industry

Benjamin Baker is the author of an extensive article entitled "Cotton Goods--An Industry Adrift," in The Annalist for December 1. In this he says: "What has happened--is happening--to the American cotton goods industry, especially in New England? So far as precise knowledge of its position is concerned, the industry may fairly be called adrift, moving uncertainly, and, as an industry, without cohesion or discipline among the manufacturers, who may be compared to the crew which should be able to work the ship of the industry to a safe port. A careful inquiry into the situation makes it seem that right soundings, a consequent knowledge of position, and a proper charting of the waters yet to be traversed, may yet bring the vessel safely into harbor.... Solution of the difficulties of the cotton goods industry is neither a simple nor an easy matter. It will require time, money, energy, inventiveness, a surrender of many old habits and prejudices and the establishment of new procedures perhaps as difficult to accomplish as the abandonment of the old. No one with even a half-way adequate comprehension of the many almost separate

situations which together compose the present condition of the cotton goods industry will think of proposing any single remedy for the present misadjustments....A list of the main deficiencies in the equipment of the industry might well include the following. No adequate statistical returns of any type of production, or consumption, or stocks on hand. No adequate statistical research. No cooperative research on markets. Much needs to be done to determine whether cotton can be adapted to uses now served by other materials; whether it has been ousted by other materials from certain uses and can 'come back'; what impending changes in the technic of other industries may open new opportunities for the use of cotton; whether the relative price levels of certain materials, including cotton, determine which will be used for certain purposes; whether the movement of such price levels can be used to forecast increased or diminished use of cotton in certain directions. No adequate study of administration, or attempt to make useful to the cotton industry the newer scientific methods which have made marked progress in some other industries, especially as concerns the training of the administrators of the future. No adequate technical research; meaning by this a study, in the modern scientific attitude, of the facts of existing processes. It is only too easy to find executive veterans in the mills altogether at odds on technical questions which should long ago have been reduced to undisputed certainty. No study of merchandising methods, existing and possible, nor any broad undertaking to unify the interests of producers and distributors to the end of stabilizing and making more prosperous the entire industry. No provision for publicity for the cotton fibre and for cotton goods as against other fibres and textiles; or in protection and advancement of the interests of the industry as a whole. Much could be and ought to be done in this direction. All these deficiencies can be substantially remedied only by cooperation first of all. They exist now mainly because of the traditional individualistic temper of the industry."

Immigration Figures

Germany and Great Britain, with North Ireland are running a close race in the number of immigrants visaed for this country to date, according to the latest figures on immigrant visas granted, made public December 1 by the State Department. The total quota for Germany for the current year is 51,227 and the visas granted total 11,409, while Great Britain and North Ireland have a quota of 34,007, of which 11,748 have been granted visas. The Irish Free State, with a quota of 28,567, was third with 9,150. (Press, Dec.2.)

Meat Situation

In its monthly review of the livestock and meat situation, issued December 1, the Institute of American Meat Packers says in part: "With heavy receipts of hogs at the leading markets that culminated in a run of 95,000 at Chicago, the second highest day's receipts on record, the wholesale prices of fresh pork in middle western markets showed further slight declines during the latter part of the month just closed....Notwithstanding the heavy receipts and the relatively low levels at which fresh pork has been wholesaling, hog prices at Chicago did not decline greatly. Current hog prices are almost 30 per cent higher than they were a year ago. Observers attribute the unusually heavy receipts which arrived during November to the lack of corn in some districts and to the coming of colder

weather, which has forced farmers to bring the hogs in from the field and either feed or market them. Lacking corn, many farmers sent their hogs quickly to market. In the opinion of many packers, the marketing of hogs in such large numbers and in unfinished condition is not to the best interests of the producer. Demand for smoked products and for dry salt meats was excellent."

New Jersey Farm Problems

An Atlantic City dispatch to the press of December 2 says: "Because of present marketing methods, the farms of New Jersey and many other States are being rapidly deserted, and unless remedial steps are taken swiftly, the country will face an extremely serious situation involving a shortage of agricultural food products, according to State Senator Agans of Three Bridges, N.J., Master of the New Jersey Grange, which is holding its annual meeting in Atlantic City. In a recent address here, C. P. Wilber of Trenton, State Forester, said 400,000 acres of farm land in New Jersey had already been abandoned. Senator Agans amplified this statement December 1 by saying farmers were continuing to desert their fields even in sections most advantageously located. The farmers, he said, could not obtain a price for their products that would cover the cost of production plus a reasonable profit, and that the responsibility for this situation was neither with the farmer nor consumer, but the middleman."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in The India Rubber World for December 1 says: "The occasional pessimist mourns the fact that the United States Department of Agriculture has not matched the British Imperial Department and given to our manufacturers all the rubber needed in our own dominions. Of course, it should be evident that our department never had the money to do such work and could not get it, and this in spite of frequent appeals dating back to the time of Secretary Wilson. However, with the pitiful doles that came occasionally from a reluctant Congress much has been done in rubber. But would it not be a just and a graceful thing for rubber manufacturers to ponder what this overworked department of ours has done in cotton? For a great part of the rubber industry, cotton is almost as essential as rubber itself. It is the skeleton of every pneumatic tire, of nearly all belting hose, footwear, water-proofed apparel, and numerous other articles properly classed as rubber goods. Some idea of the important role played by the staple may be had when it is stated that in tires alone its percentage ranges as high as 25, and that to make 50,000,000 tires (now the approximate requirement for a year) fully 500,000 bales of cotton must be provided. Probably as much more is consumed in various other divisions of the rubber industry, raising the total to a round million bales, or about one-tenth of an average year's crop. This indispensable concomitant of rubber is almost wholly grown in the United States--a vast crop--largely a creation of the Department of Agriculture. In no other agricultural enterprise has this Federal bureau had to contend with so many adverse factors as in cotton growing and marketing, influences so unfavorable as would thoroughly discourage officials less far-sighted, public-spirited, and indefatigable. It has stuck resolutely by its conviction that the United States can, as it should, supply the major part of its cotton needs from its own soil, and advantageously. It has brought to the planters the experience of the world, has proved on its many experimental farms that cotton growing is not the hit-or-miss

affair commonly supposed, and that science beats empiricism every time. Through a vast amount of research work it has shown the benefit of and how to get pure seed, how to cultivate sturdy varieties, to water plants, to combat pests and plant maladies, what sorts are best suited to certain localities, how to offset weather changes, to gather crops efficiently; and it has pointed out the best plans for storage and the most effective methods of marketing. It has encouraged in the Southwest a marvelous development in cotton growing that may virtually redeem the industry; and has been particularly helpful in establishing for American cotton an accurate commercial classification as to grades, colors, and staples, to the great relief of buyers here and abroad who hitherto have had to depend for such aid and guidance on the international market of Liverpool."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Dec.2: New York sacked Round White potatoes sold at $1.05 to $1.25 per 100 pounds in eastern markets; 80¢ to 85¢ f.o.b. Rochester, Yellow varieties of onions from New York and the Middle West brought mostly $2 to $2.50 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers; $2 to $2.20 f.o.b. Rochester, N.Y. and $1.75 to $1.90 f.o.b. West Michigan points. Danish type cabbage from New York sold at $16 to $25 bulk per ton in eastern markets; $12 to $14 f.o.b. Rochester. Virginia York Imperial apples $4.50 to $5 per barrel in eastern cities.

Chicago hog prices closed at $9.80 for the top; bulk of sales $9.00 to $9.60; medium and good beef steers $7.00 to $12.25; butcher cows and heifers $3.35 to $11.50; light and medium weight veal calves $8.25 to $10.50; feeding lambs $12.50 to $13.10; yearlings $9.75 to $13.00; fat ewes $5.25 to $8.75.

Grain prices quoted December 2: No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.68 to $1.69; Kansas City $1.59. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.52 1/2; St. Louis $1.53 1/2; Kansas City $1.48 to $1.53. No.2 mixed corn Chicago $1.14; Minneapolis $1.10 1/2 to $1.12 1/2. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.16 to $1.16 1/2; Minneapolis $1.17; St. Louis $1.14 1/2; Kansas City $1.08 to $1.08 1/2. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.15 to $1.15 1/2; Minneapolis $1.11 1/2 to $1.15 1/2. No.2 white corn St. Louis $1.13 1/2 to $1.15; Kansas City $1.08 1/2. No.3 white oats Chicago 50 1/2 to 51 1/2¢; Minneapolis 48 to 48 1/4¢; St.Louis 54 to 55¢. No.2 white oats Kansas City 54¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 27 points, closing at 22.96¢ per lb. New York December future contracts up 27 points closing at 22.92¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Dec. 2,	Dec. 1,	Dec. 1, 1923
20 Industrials	110.71	110.44	93.15
20 R.R. stocks	96.60	96.28	81.00

(Wall St. Jour., Dec. 3.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XV, no.55 Section 1 December 4, 1924

The President's Annual Message

President Coolidge's annual message, sent to Congress yesterday by messenger and read in each House by a clerk, was notable for its lack of specific recommendations. This was not surprising, in view of the realization that the shortness of the legislative session and the ability of hostile elements in the Senate and the House to interfere with the enactment of important administration measures will make it necessary that Congress shall devote itself mainly, if not entirely, to the passage of the necessary annual supply bills for the support of the Government. Upon one topic, however, the President was specific and emphatic. In reiterating his disappointment over the tax reduction legislation of last June, he indicated his intention to make an effort in the next Congress to obtain tax "reform," an evident hint that he desired to revive the Mellon plan of tax reduction which was rejected in the last session. The President repeated his approval of the Harding-Hughes plan for American adhesion to the Permanent Court of International Justice and said a good word for the practicability of this tribunal in helping to maintain world peace. Concerning the war debts of allied nations owed to the United States, the President came out flatly against cancelling them, and said he believed it "for the best welfare of the world that they should be liquidated and paid as fast as possible." In his references to railways, the President stressed his previous recommendation for legislation to expedite their consolidation into larger systems. In discussing the Government's Muscle Shoals nitrate plant, the President suggested that the offers made should be investigated by Congress and if there should be no advantageous proposal for its lease or purchase, "the development should continue and the plant should be dedicated primarily to the production of materials for the fertilization of the soil."(Press, Dec.4.)

The President on Agriculture

The President, in his annual message to Congress yesterday, referred to agriculture as follows: "No more important development has taken place in the last year than the beginning of a restoration of agriculture to a prosperous condition. We must permit no division of classes in this country, with one occupation striving to secure advantage over another. Each must proceed under open opportunities and with a fair prospect of economic equality.. The Government can not successfully insure prosperity or fix prices by legislative fiat. Every business has its risk and its times of depression. It is well known that in the long run there will be a more even prosperity and a more satisfactory range of prices under the natural working out of economic laws than when the Government undertakes the artificial support of markets and industries....It was on account of past depression, and in spite of present more encouraging conditions, that I have assembled an agricultural conference made up of those who are representative of this great industry in both its operating and economic sides. Every one knows that the great need of the farmer is markets. The country is not suffering on the side of production. Almost the entire difficulty is on the side of distribution. This reaches back, of course, to unit costs and diversification and many allied subjects....In time for action at this session, I hope to report to the Congress such legislative remedies as the conference may recommend. An appropriation should be made to defray their necessary expenses."

Section 2

Agricultural College Attendance

An editorial in The Philadelphia Ledger for December 3 says: "Attendance at agricultural colleges has fallen off 34 per cent during the last ten years. The average enrollment in 1914 was 458; to-day it is only 289. This is, of course, a reflection of the general movement from farm to city, emphasized so decidedly by the war. A readjustment will come in time, and the automobile is bound to hasten it. As for the agricultural college itself, it has proved its value in improving the methods of farming; and while this most conservative element in the population may not entirely have accepted book-learning at its real value, its results, both in general and in particular, will stand the test. At the twenty-fifth international livestock exhibition in Chicago the text-book farmers of the agricultural schools walked off with the most important honors. Improvement in technique can be taught by experience, but it can be learned from books and teachers much more rapidly. It is a fact, for instance, that the archery amateurs of to-day are much better shots than the longbowmen of Robin Hood's time. Farming is older than history, but we are only beginning to learn to get the most out of it."

On the same subject, an editorial in The New York Times of December 3 says: "Agricultural colleges report a great falling off in students. Thirty-four such institutions show an average decrease from 458 in 1914 to 289 this year. 'Where,' asks the Blue Valley Creamery Institute, 'are our trained agricultural leaders of the future to come from? That is a vital question in the important development of our basic industry, upon which prosperity hinges.' A correspondent of The Evening Post, who assembles impressive figures of vacancies in the agricultural colleges, attributes the decline in the student body to doubts of the farmer's son about the future of agriculture. Yet, somehow, the harvest is gleaned, dairies supply milk and butter, the American hen lays eggs indefatigably, truck farms yield vegetables for the table, beeves go in sufficient numbers from the pasture to the stockyard. Is it the alien from Scandinavia and Eastern and Southern Europe who keeps American agriculture from collapsing? Or are the adversities of the farmer exaggerated? Whatever the answer may be, America can not stand abandoned farms everywhere. It is generally realized that if the farmers strike, there will be nothing to eat. There never was a time when the Department of Agriculture was doing so much with its bulletins and its reports to help the farmer to plant and reap. The country has even been advised by the Government to consume more meat than ever--right in the teeth of the dietitians, who urge less meat and plenty of vegetables. The truth is that almost everything is being done for the farmer that anybody can think of. Lately the County Agricultural Agent has sprung into being, thanks to legislation. He is supplementing what the Government fails to do....The middleman may have a good deal to answer for, but perhaps he is not as black as he is painted. Fair-dealing middlemen are to be met with. They will tell you that the rail rate on a basket of peaches from Georgia is too high. The railroads are doing very well now, too. Without doubting that the farmer often has a hard road to travel and has much to contend with, it may be said that he is not always versed in scientific agriculture nor equal to his opportunities."

Baking Standards

Only under Federal supervision can effective standardization of the baking trade be realized, John M. Hartley, national secretary of the Retail Bakers' Association, told the New York State Bakers' Association at Washington, December 2. Referring to large mergers in the baking trade, Mr. Hartley said that it was a question whether a super-merger could solve the problem of waste and that bakers should remember that these mergers threatened to substitute for trade cooperation theory of capital cooperation and bureaucracy.(Press, Dec.3.)

California Walnut Industry

"The farm magazine section of the Los Angeles Sunday Times carries an interesting article by George Law, which gives considerable data regarding the California walnut industry. Under normal conditions the California walnut crop runs about 50 million pounds. There are over 100,000 acres of walnut groves in that State, but only 27 per cent, of this acreage is in full bearing and another one-third is in partial bearing. New groves are being planted at the rate of 5,000 acres a year. Mr. Law predicts that in the next ten years they may expect production at the rate of 150 million pounds per year. If nothing happens to interfere with this trebling of the California crop, prices for walnuts will average considerably less than to-day. About 20 million pounds of walnuts are imported annually, mostly from France and Japan....If the trebling of the California crop takes place within the next decade as predicted, the Nut Growers' Association will have a big job ahead to increase consumption sufficiently to avoid too low prices for profitable growing in this important industry. Maybe the California nuts can be made to take the place of the imported variety. If so, that will give the home growers a chance to expand their output about 40 per cent, without additional consumption. In this connection it is of interest to note that the consumption of almonds in this country is almost 34 million pounds, of which California supplied over 12 million pounds." (Commercial West,Nov.29.)

Cattle Financing

The Journal of Commerce for December 3 reports: "The financing of cattle on the ranges of the country is regarded by President Coolidge as the most pressing agricultural problem of the moment, it was disclosed December 2 at the White House. White House spokesmen stated that in order to fill the existing vacancy on the Farm Loan Board the President was seeking a man who was familiar with the cattle industry and would be sympathetic to cattle financing. Mr. Coolidge, it was explained, felt that from a credit standpoint other activities of the cattle industry were being well taken care of, but that he desired that every facility at the Government's command should be extended to the financing of cattle on the ranges."

Farm Profits

Fort Bragg (Calif.) News for November 22 says: "Farmers of this country complain that they are not making any profit, or at least not a profit in keeping with that made by manufacturers and merchants. In fact, we can find right here in Fort Bragg men who contend that the farmers have been steadily losing money for years. The consumer knows he is paying a high price for meats and farm produce. The railroads claim that they are not making the dividends permitted by law with present freight rates and they're always trying

to raise them. And now comes one of the biggest packing plants in the country asking the court to appoint a receiver for it. For several years Chicago packers have been showing by charts in the newspapers how small is their profit on meats, and if this one big concern is actually facing bankruptcy, then it looks like an argument in their favor. But the whole affair raises an interesting question, and one probably every reader of this paper has asked himself time and again. If the farmer, the packer, the railroads and the consumer all fail to get much out of the provision trade--then who is getting the money? What becomes of the difference between the low price on the farm and the high price on the dining table? Answers to these questions would make mighty interesting reading and might also solve what to us has long been one of the deepest mysteries in America."

Federal Aid in Marketing Recommended

A Chicago dispatch to the press of December 2 states that better prices this year for wheat and corn were termed "accidental" and "incidents" resulting from adverse crop conditions here and abroad, in an address in Chicago, December 2, before the National Association of Commissioners, Secretaries and Departments of Agriculture at its annual meeting. George W. Koiner, Agricultural Commissioner of Virginia, declared that neglect of agricultural fundamentals had contributed "to the crisis in which the farmer of every section finds himself to-day." He recommends adoption of legislation pending in Congress looking to the establishment of Federal machinery for cooperative marketing.

Florida Exhibition

The Florida Grower for November 22 says: "Florida will again exhibit at the Madison Square Garden in New York City. This show will immediately follow the South Florida Fair, which is set for early February. The show at the Garden last year was a success and created great interest in the possibilities of Florida. This year the exhibitors and managers will be better prepared to put the show over."

French Sugar Crop

A Paris dispatch to the press of November 29 states that French sugar production increased so greatly this year that it is believed there will be no need of importations. Whereas last year's production was 488,000 long tons, the total this year reaches 760,000 long tons. It is estimated that the sugar consumption for the year will be about the latter figure.

Grain Rates

The Interstate Commerce Commission December 1 approved the petition of the Missouri Pacific and other southwestern carriers for a modification of an order issued by the commission in the matter of rates on grain and grain products moving on the west side route of the applicants' lines in Kansas to other mid-western points when the rates are based on Kansas City, Mo., combinations, to Helena, Ark. (Press, Dec.2.)

Mellon Advises Foreign Loans

The press of December 3 states that Secretary Mellon counsels American business to be prepared to meet demands for continued aid and cooperation in the economic recovery of Europe, in a personal statement written for the Mooseheart Magazine, and made public December 2 by the Treasury. If the European requirements for

financial assistance are met, as Mr. Mellon believes they can be met in America, he feels "the general effect will be a period of progress and increasing prosperity here, provided we exercise a reasonable degree of restraint and sound judgment in our undertakings." The Secretary adds that better conditions in America and a broadened market for the products of American effort surely will result from an improved world condition. Inauguration of the Dawes settlement "undoubtedly marks the beginning of the solution of the economic troubles of Europe," Mr. Mellon declares.

Production and Marketing

An editorial in The Rural New-Yorker for November 29 says: "With real cooperation in selling and an organization which will enable farmers to regulate production to suit demand, our farmers will be in far better condition. There must be a readjustment of crops and methods. We are now importing great quantities of sugar and wool, practically every pound of which could be produced in this country. There are, without doubt, many farmers who barely make a living at dairying as at present conducted, who might do far better by growing sugar beets or keeping more sheep. There are some good opportunities in poultry keeping, for we are still importing great quantities of poultry and eggs. We can not encourage any great plunge in fruit growing. The orchards we now have need better care. In the East one great trouble with dairying is that too many farmers are producing milk at a loss. As they are situated in relation to their soil and to the market it is not likely that they can produce milk at a profit. It would be far better if they could plan to work slowly into other crops of stock and leave milk production to those who are best fitted to keep a dairy. Sooner or later, following natural law, the unprofitable dairy must go. No legislation can save a business which is naturally unprofitable. From the Genesee Valley across the country to California, time after time this truth has been worked out with grain growers. Farms and farmers grow poor at raising wheat continuously, and then come back to prosperity by slowly abandoning grain for other farm products. In a way the production of liquid milk in the East is reacting upon many of our farmers much the same as exclusive grain growing affected the farmers of the West. Full enforcement of the laws we now have, and honest and full cooperation, will help, but there must also be a readjustment of farm crops and a better regulation of milk production."

Rural Banks

Rural banks are filled with money, according to the monthly review of the Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis, Minn. The review says: "Roughly speaking, collections of grain drafts this season are double what they were for the corresponding period last year, and deposits of country banks held in Minneapolis correspondent banks are also double; on the other hand outstanding loans to country banks are about half their last year's volume."

Waterways Upkeep

Work on the country's rivers, harbors, and waterways will require $71,604,980 in the year beginning July 1, 1925. Recommendations for the various projects were made by the Chief of Engineers of the Army, under whose direction this work is carried on, in his annual report submitted to Congress December 1 with the 1926 fiscal year estimates. (Press, Dec.2.)

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Dec. 3: Chicago hog prices closed at $9.75 for the top and $8.90 to $9.50 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $7.15 to $12.25; butcher cows and heifers $3.35 to $11.50; and feeder steers $4.50 to $7.50.

New York sacked Round White potatoes $1.10 to $1.25 per 100 pounds in eastern cities; 80 to 85¢ f.o.b. Rochester. Northern sacked Round Whites, fair quality, 80 to 95¢ carlot sales in Chicago; 65¢ to 75¢ f.o.b. New York cabbage weakened in eastern markets to $15 to $23 bulk per ton for Danish type; $12 to $14 f.o.b. Rochester. Onions generally stronger, though steady in a few markets. New York and Midwestern yellows mostly $2.25 to $2.65 sacked per 100 pounds for best stock in consuming centers; $2.25 f. o.b. Rochester and $1.60 to $2 f.o.b. West Michigan points. New York and Massachusetts Baldwin apples firm at $5 to $5.50 per barrel in eastern markets. New York Golden Self-blanching celery fairly steady at $2.50 to $3 per 2/3 crate in leading markets; mostly $2.25 f.o.b. Rochester.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 47¢; Chicago 47 1/4¢; Philadelphia 47¢; Boston 45¢.

Grain prices quoted Dec. 3: No.2 red winter Chicago $1.67; Kansas City $1.60 to $1.65. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.54 3/4 to $1.55 1/4; Kansas City $1.48 to $1.58. No.2 mixed corn Chicago $1.16 1/4; Minneapolis $1.13 1/2 to $1.15 1/2; Kansas City $1.08 to $1.09. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.18 to $1.19 1/2; Minneapolis $1.20; Kansas City $1.09 to $1.10. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.16 1/2 to $1.17 3/4; Minneapolis $1.14 1/2 to $1.18 1/2; No.2 white corn Kansas City $1.10 to $1.11. No.2 white oats Kansas City 54 1/2¢; No.3 white oats Chicago 51 to 54¢; Minneapolis 49 5/8 to 49 7/8¢.

Spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 6 points, closing at 23.02¢ per lb. New York December future contracts up 1 point, closing at 22.95¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Dec. 3,	Dec. 2,	Dec. 3, 1923
20 Industrials	110.83	110.71	92.64
20 R.R.stocks	97.21	96.60	80.96

(Wall St. Jour., Dec. 4.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XV,no.56 Section 1 December 5,1924

The President on Agriculture

Addressing mid-western audiences for the first time since he entered the White House, President Coolidge made two important speeches in Chicago yesterday in which he discussed the needs of American agriculture and the relationship of the United States to present day world problems. The two audiences were made up of business and commercial leaders, many of them engaged in lines that bring them in contact with agricultural trade. The President, who went to Chicago primarily to attend the International Livestock Exposition, told these city dwellers in plain language that the time had come when they should adhere strictly to the golden rule in their business relations with the tillers of the soil. He declared that too much thought had been given to problems and commodity prices, "and not enough thought to the men and women who are engaged in agriculture, to their welfare and to their prosperity." He said: "We must look beyond the quotations of the market-place and see what price we are proposing to pay, what rewards we are proposing to confer in exchange for the hard-working lives on the farm." He declared that most of the troubles that now confront the farmer had come about through over-production and a lack of systematic endeavor in the sale of his products. He suggested that the farmer could assist in his own rehabilitation by lessening production and adopting the principles of cooperative marketing in the disposal of his wares.

In his address before the Chicago Commercial Club yesterday, President Coolidge said: "I am profoundly impressed with the fact that the structure of modern society is essentially a unity, destined to stand or to fall as such. It is our fortune and our privilege that in the present exigency we are in a position to take a part of great helpfulness and leadership, and we shall best serve ourselves and help others if we direct our efforts to raising, in the broadest way, the standards of human welfare everywhere. We must seek to find and to play a part whereby, without destroying ourselves, we may help others. We can not hope indefinitely to maintain our country as a specially favored community, an isle of contentment lifted above the general level of the average of the standards of humanity. I know there was a time when many among us believed this was possible. But who, now, can continue clinging to such a faith, in view of the lesson which the war brought to us? If we could not avoid involvement in a war whose causes were foreign, and whose issues were chiefly alien to us because we had settled them for ourselves long ago, how can we hope to avoid our full share of responsibility in connection with other world problems which, if they are ever to be solved, must be solved in an atmosphere of peace and good-will? We must be constantly ready to help at home and abroad where our help is desired and would be effective. It is our wish to live in a world which shall be at peace. But we can no more assure permanent and stable peace without cooperation among the nations than we could assure victory and war without allies among them." (Press, Dec. 5.)

Secretary Gore's Appointment Confirmed

The nomination of Howard M. Gore to be Secretary of Agriculture was confirmed in the Senate yesterday. (Press, Dec. 5.)

Section 2

Agricultural Needs

Denver Express of November 26 says: "Charles S. Barrett, president of the National Farmers' Union, and a member of President Coolidge's agricultural board, says the farmers want (1) passage of the truth-in-fabric bill; (2) legislation to protect farmers' interests by providing for truthful and adequate branding, labeling and advertising of seeds, foods and fertilizers when shipped in interstate commerce; (3) legislation to provide for more adequate market reports by the Department of Agriculture, both at home and abroad, and to give certain foreign representatives of the Department of Agriculture the rank of agricultural attache; (4) the prevention through legislation, if possible, of discrimination by manufacturers, financial and commercial interests against farmers who wish to buy collectively in wholesale quantities; (5) revision of the Esch-Cummins act in order to secure lower freight rates, and (6) measures which will insure no recurrence of discriminations against the farmer, which have obtained under the Federal Reserve system and Federal Farm Loan Board. This is a good starter and almost enough to keep Congress busy for a few weeks without tackling Muscle Shoals, the World Court, foreign affairs, tax reduction, a public building program, and a lot of other measures pending."

Baking Industry

I.K.Russell, editor of Baking Technology, is the author of an extensive article entitled "That Loaf of Bread, 1924 Model," in The Nation's Business for December. He says in part: "The housewife knows she could never accomplish this evenness of result. So she bowed to the modern baker. She has bought bakers' bread until the industry, within the decade, has pressed forward from seventeenth to seventh place among American trades. It is organized now with its own Institute of Baking, to teach its own students how to behave in a modern plant while machinery makes the bread. And this leads naturally to the price question. All there is to the cry of 'bread trust' is that the housewife gladly buys at 10 cents a loaf the modern bread on which vastly more has been spent than was ever dreamed of as necessary on the old loaf. And the housewife will pay this 10 cents for this loaf much more gladly than she will pay 5 cents for the old hand-made loaf in a plant that is a mere shelter for workmen. If it hadn't been for this willingness, the modern industrialization of baking never would have occurred. Some bakeries have been run to the wall in price fights. I have watched them go--they were offering the old time loaf in every case, often at half the price of the modern loaf. In the old loaf, flour was 80 per cent of the baker's cost and the slogan ran: 'A pound of flour should cost the same as a pound of bread,' since the water the baker used added enough weight to make this slogan fair. But in the modern loaf white flour ranks with white paper in the modern newspaper office. From a proud place as the cost leader it has dropped down until it is only 20 per cent of the cost. The rest goes into quality insurance and enriching ingredients that make the modern loaf welcome and appetizing. Is it any wonder baking stocks have just reached the stock exchanges, and that banks take note of baking? If you fear there is a trust--remember every woman can get every ingredient of a loaf in any grocery store and her kitchen is all the factory she requires, with the overhead already paid. She has surrendered to a force that holds her by sheer good will alone--the only power the modern baker has to force acceptance of his goods."

Britain Lightens Livestock Ban — A modification has been made by the British Government in the recently imposed prohibition on the importation into Great Britain from the United States of cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, hay and straw, the Commerce Department was advised December 3 in dispatches from London. The new regulations limit the prohibition to "the States of Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri and Mississippi and such other parts of the United States as lie to the South and Southwest of those States." This modification resulted from informal representations made by the American Ambassador at London in view of the steps taken to deal with the recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease on the Texas coast region. The United States promises to inform the British Government by cable if the disease spreads further eastward. The effect of the modification will be to reopen the eastern ports of the United States for shipments of cattle, hay, straw, etc. (Press, Dec.4.)

Canada to Raise Tariffs — An Ottawa dispatch to the press of December 4 states that increased duties on certain commodities imported into Canada from the United States and other countries having no commercial treaty with the Dominion will follow formal adoption of the Canadian-Australian reciprocal trade agreement recently drafted, it was learned December 3. E.G.Pauley, Assistant United States Trade Commissioner in Melbourne, reports that the commodities on which increased rates of from 1 to 4 cents a pound will be imposed include: Fresh meats, lard, eggs and cheese, butter, canned vegetables and fruits, and honey. Mr.Pauley's report forecasts an increase of from 10 to 30 per cent ad valorem on beeswax, dried fruits, glue and gelatin.

Cotton Reports — Semi-Weekly Farm News for November 7 says: "Clarence Ousley is the author of an article in the Federal International News, published by a banking company at New Orleans, in which he says, 'If it were possible to have Government reports every day, as the cotton trade has private information every day, it would be to the grower's advantage, because ultimately values are fixed upon ascertained truth and the grower's interest is in the economic value and not in the speculative value.' While Mr. Ousley would favor daily reports, he thinks if that be impracticable, that the fortnightly reports are a useful step in that direction. He does not agree with cotton dealers and mill men who have protested that the present system of reports has proved hurtful, He argues: 'A due appraisal of the facts and an intelligent interpretation of the circumstances certainly do not warrant at this time a final opinion that the Government's semi-monthly reports tend to make the market unduly sensitive. The truth is that the United States has the best system of crop reporting statistics in the world, and on the whole it is as nearly free from selfish or private influences as it is possible for a human agency to be. It is not infallible because nothing human is infallible, but it is far less fallible than any private agency, and until there has been more unfavorable evidence than has yet been presented it is entitled to the public's confidence. That it has such confidence is attested by the simple fact that even when the private reports approximate the Government report, the market advances or declines accordingly as the Government is slightly below or slightly above. The public takes notice of the private reports and is somewhat influenced by them as

indication of the Government reports, but it acts decisively only on the Government reports.' It is possible that Mr. Ousley is not wholly fanciful in his supposition that daily reports would be better than fortnightly reports. If information were given out at Washington as rapidly as it is received with summaries as often as summaries were justified by data received, it might reveal the trend of production conditions with sufficient steadiness to offset these ten-dollar-a bale upsets that greet the sudden rupture of profound secrecy with a Government prediction of the probable yield. Daily reports would be statements of fact in a form which would not preclude prediction, indeed, but forestall speculative trade-wagers on what a given prediction would be on a given date. It is Mr. Ousley's notion that the trade, and particularly the grower, can not be said to be hurt by the fluctuations accompanying the reports. He holds fluctuations to be inherent in the cotton market, with Government reports as with private reports. But it is noteworthy that the men most in sympathy with the trade, growers and buyers and millers all alike, appeared in Washington last year at a conference called by the Secretary of Agriculture and recommended the twice-a-month plan of reports."

Extension Service and Community Development

Kansas City Daily Drovers Telegram for December 1 says: "The growth of the community spirit is one of the outstanding developments of the agricultural world to-day. The good old days of spelling bees, husking bees, log rollings, country church fairs and school district literary societies are being surpassed to-day by the growing spirit of community organization. The movement is sweeping the land. Scarcely an agricultural county in America can be found in which the agricultural Extension Service has not planted its community organizations and established its community centers. The movement promises to be one of the most far-reaching movements of the century in its influence on life on the farm, for it ministers to the human side of life and brings about a community of interest in all the activities that pertain to farm life. Ideal community organizations are not hard to find. Let the Fabius community, one of the ten organized communities of Marion County, Mo., serve as a type of the thousands of such community organizations which are ministering to the solution of rural life problems to-day. A great community house has been built, around which center the activities of the organization. These activities cover a wide range. Meetings to discuss the farm program of the community, farm demonstrations, discussion of cooperative marketing, demonstrations in home economics for the farm women, boys' and girls' club work, lectures, entertainments, musicals, community singing, discussion of national problems by competent men, instruction in sanitation and hygiene by the visiting trained nurse, Sunday school and religious services. A thousand persons gather to attend the annual community fair with its wealth of agricultural exhibits, that would put to shame the county fair of a few years ago with its pitiful appeal of the race track and the fakir shows. In the community fair the exhibits run the whole scale of livestock, poultry, crops, baking, pastry, canning, fancy work, flowers, contests and even babies. The round of activities runs through the whole year...The farm community organizations to-day are the little democracies of the civilization of American agriculture. They are contributing the major part toward making the farmer one of the best informed men in the land. The science of government, the problems of economics, the greater world movements, are all brought to him through the activities of his

community organization. The growth of the community spirit is a hopeful sign for agriculture. The community organizations are worthy successors to the town meetings and the minor social organizations of former generations."

Immigration — Application of the present American immigration policy and proposed alterations in that policy constitute a large part of the material on which the Labor Department's annual report. as made public yesterday, is based. Three salient changes in immigration practice are suggested by Secretary Davis. The first would apply to citizens of Canada, Mexico and other North American countries outside the United States the quota restrictions governing entrance of aliens from other lands. The second would allow temporary increase in the admission of aliens in times of established and particularized labor shortage in the United States, and permit administrative restriction of all immigration under existing legal limits in times of unemployment. The third major proposal would require the registration and enrollment of all aliens admitted to the country. (Press, Dec. 4.)

International Livestock Show — A Chicago dispatch to the press of December 4 states that R.L.Heilman, of Hope, Ind., December 3 was selected grand champion corn exhibitor in the International Livestock Show, hay and grain division. The exhibit was the Heilman Johnson County White Dent variety. J.E.Mumert, Astoria, Ill., corn king last year, won second honors, the reserve championship, with his exhibit of Yellow Dent variety. The junior championship of the silver jubilee show, for boys and girls under 18, went to Frank Lux, a 16-year-old high school boy of Shelbyville, Ind. L.E.Peterson, Victor,Mont., was awarded the grand championship in the oats division of the hay and grain show. Third honors went to J.C.Lucas, Cayley, Alberta. Canadian exhibitors took twenty-five out of thirty awards in this division. Peterson's victory in taking the grand championship brought that honor to the United States from Canada for the first time in six years. In the flint corn division, A.S.Campbell, Blenheim,Ont., won the grand championship. Canadian exhibitors in this division won the first ten places and a total of twelve out of the fifteen awards. Princeton Rosewood, a yearling breeding shorthorn heifer from the Prince of Wales' Alberta ranch, won the blue ribbon in the cattle competition. The grand champion wether of the show was a Shropshire lamb from the Iroquois Farms, Cooperstown, N.Y. The year's best beef went to market December 3, when Deacon, 11-month Hereford steer, selected grand champion December 2, wound up a brilliant career on the auction block. Deacon, owned by John C. Shaffer, Chicago, Denver and Indianapolis publisher, also was selected grand champion calf of the show and champion Hereford calf. He weighed in at 950 pounds. He came from Ken Caryl ranch, Littleton,Col. He was sold to the Book-Cadillac Hotel of Detroit for $1.40 a pound. The grand champion carload lot of fat cattle, for which E. T. Hall, of Mechanicsburg,Ill., won the prize, and consisting of yearling Aberdeen Angus steers, was sold for 39 cents a pound to the Pittsburgh Packing and Provision Company.

Irish-Belgium Trade — The press of December 4 states that consular advices announce that a syndicate representing Irish Free State and Belgian capital to the extent of 500,000 francs has been formed for the purpose of

promoting trade, particularly in livestock, between the Free State and Belgium, say consular advices to the Department of Commerce. An undertaking has been entered into by the Irish interests involved to deliver 20,000 head of fat cattle by May 1, 1925. The venture is expected to increase considerably the volume of trade between the Free State and Belgium and is looked upon as a step in the development by the Free State of a system of direct trading.

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Dec.3: Chicago hog prices closed at $9.75 for the top and $8.90 to $9.50 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $7.15 to $12.25; butcher cows and heifers $3.35 to $11.50; and feeder steers $4.50 to $7.50.

New York sacked Round White potatoes mostly $1.10 to $1.25 per 100 pounds in eastern cities; 80¢ to 85¢ f.o.b. Rochester. New York cabbage weakened in eastern markets to $15 to $23 bulk per ton for Danish type; $12 to $14 f.o.b. Rochester. New York and midwestern yellow onions mostly $2.25 to $2.65 sacked per 100 pounds for best stock in consuming centers; $2.25 f.o.b.Rochester and $1.60 to $2 f. f.o.b. West Michigan points. New York and Massachusetts Baldwin apples firm at $5 to $5.50 per barrel in eastern markets.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 47¢; Chicago 47 1/4¢; Philadelphia 47¢; Boston 45¢.

Grain prices quoted Dec. 3: No.2 red winter Chicago $1.67; Kansas City $1.60 to $1.65. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.54 3/4 to $1.55 1/4; Kansas City $1.48 to $1.58. No.2 mixed corn Chicago $1.16 1/4; Minneapolis $1.13 1/2 to $1.15 1/2; Kansas City $1.08 to $1.09. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.18 to $1.19 1/2; Minneapolis $1.20; Kansas City $1.09 to $1.10. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.16 1/2 to $1.17 3/4; Minneapolis $1.14 1/2 to $1.18 1/2; No.2 white corn Kansas City $1.10 to $1.11. No.2 white oats Kansas City 54 1/2¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 51 to 54¢; Minneapolis 49 5/8 to 49 7/8¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 6 points, closing at 23.02¢ per lb. New York December future contracts up 1 point, closing at 22.93¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Dec. 4,	Dec. 3,	Dec. 4, 1923
20 Industrials	111.56	110.83	92.68
20 R.R.stocks	98.03	97.21	81.28

(Wall St. Jour., Dec. 5.).

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XV,no.57 Section 1 December 6,1924

The President's Impressions of Western Conditions

The press to-day reports that President Coolidge told friends who traveled with him that he was delighted with his visit to Chicago. He was glad to get in touch with representative men familiar with conditions on the farm and gratified to learn that economic conditions were steadily improving. He returned impressed with the belief that the West was about to enter an era of substantial prosperity which would be shared by the country generally. He believed the rehabilitation of Europe would help things in the United States greatly.

National Arboretum Legislation

A national arboretum for the propagation of trees and plants, to be established near Washington, is sought in a bill introduced December 4 in the Senate by Senator Pepper and simultaneously in the House by Representative Luce. According to the terms of the bill, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to establish this arboretum on land owned or to be bought by the United States, along the Anacostia River, north of Benning Bridge. An appropriation of $300,000 is asked for acquisition of the land. (Press, Dec. 5.)

Cotton Statistics Legislation

Under a proposed amendment to the cotton statistics law by Senator Smith, of South Carolina, December 3, the Director of the Census would be authorized to procure and publish ginning reports as of August 1st and 16, September 1 and 16, October 1 and 18, November 1 and 14, December 1 and 13, January 16 and March 1. (Press, Dec.4.)

Border Livestock Legislation

A bill to authorize the return duty free within three years of livestock taken into Mexico for pasturage was introduced in the House December 3 by Representative Garner. (Press, Dec.4.)

Cotton Exchange Rules

A New York dispatch to the press to-day states that the New York Cotton Exchange has amended its rules to provide that trading in the current month shall cease on the tenth day of the month, Notices, however, may be issued thereafter up to the end of the month in accordance with the provisions of the United States Cotton Futures act. In order not to disturb existing contracts, the new rule will not go into effect on any contracts, prior to those of December, 1925.

Livestock Show Honors

A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day states that Mrs.Joseph Frantz, of Mount Cory,O.,breeder of blue-blood Galloway cattle, is one of the first women breeders to win top honors in the International Livestock Exposition. Entries from Mrs.Frantz's herd took one grand championship and half a dozen blue ribbons along with several seconds for breeding Galloways of various grades and ages.

Section 2

American Scientific Work

The Washington Post of December 5 quotes Dr. E.D.Ball,Director of Scientific Work of the Department of Agriculture, as stating before the highway research board, which is affiliated with the division of engineering and industrial research of the National Research Council, at Washington, December 4, that following the war, England voted an appropriation of $5,000,000 a year for five years for agricultural research in addition to its regular expenditures for that work. With the 5-year period expiring in 1925, Dr. Ball added, the British Government has extended this special appropriation for another five years and increased it 50 per cent for pure research, and 40 per cent for agricultural education. England is spending more per capita for such activities than the United States, he asserted. "If we are to keep pace with the nations of this world, and I have faith that we are, then we must ultimately do the same thing," Dr.Ball continued. It is only a matter of a short time until the financial situation should warrant those in places of leadership considering these matters; and when they do I believe they will want to put us back into a position of leadership of the world, the only place we should have. Scientific training and the application of science to our problems will conquer them all....."

Cotton Consumption

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for December 5 says: "How much American cotton will the world consume this year? No one knows. A leading European authority says 12,600,000 bales. This seems extremely conservative when it is remembered that last year, one of depression and high prices, consumption was 11,240,000 bales. In the three years preceding the war the average consumption was 14,500,000 bales. This shows what is possible when the world gets to work. At the most conservative estimate the outlook is for a steady consumption of cotton that will take care of all that is produced this year. But the addition to the crop puts the mills in a comfortable position as regards supplies and prices. There could be nothing better for the whole cotton industry than just such a condition. Not alone the cotton industry but the whole business world has occasion to be grateful for the added sunshine of October and November."

Dollar Value

An editorial in The New York Times of December 5 says: "It takes $1.50 to-day to buy what $1 would buy ten years ago, according to Professor Jacob H. Hollander of Johns Hopkins. To-day's dollar is worth 67 cents compared with the year 1914. The present price index has been generally and roughly quoted as 160. For this ten-point drop revealed by Professor Hollander the public will be correspondingly thankful. Unfortunately, we are promised no further grounds for gratitude. It is Professor Hollander's belief that the 67-cent condition is permanent. A return to pre-war prices is not to be hoped for. We have entered upon one of the historic periods of readjustment of the economic life on a new price level. Sometimes prices have risen and earnings have followed. Sometimes wages have soared and prices have followed. It is during the period of equalization that people suffer. The American wage earner is not the loser by a 67-cent dollar....The case is different with three other classes of the population. The farmer is exposed to a scale of price fluctuation for his products that no other trade approaches. If the price he obtained for this year's wheat should only hold, he would be within approximate range of 1914 conditions. But Canadian

and Russian famine gave and Canadian and Russian bumper crops may take away, and the agricultural problem remains a proper concern at Washington. The actual relief or the hope of relief which is vouchsafed to the farmer in the play of the grain exchanges is not granted to the two other classes...."

Livestock Industry as Viewed by the President

President Coolidge, in his address December 4 before the International Livestock Exposition at Chicago, said: "We are entitled, I think, to look upon livestock as one of the most highly developed products of the agricultural industry. To bring that industry to its present high estate has required a continuing cooperation of unflagging industry, determined courage, sound business, a widespread and intelligent application of scientific methods and the recognition of the practical advantages to be derived from our American system of agricultural education. This annual exposition has marked perhaps more accurately than any other index the steady progression of agriculture from an unorganized and rudimentary occupation to the point where it has taken on the character of a profession, and has summoned to its aid the most effective methods in business organization, economic analysis and scientific methods....With some knowledge and a broad interest in all these activities, I have been glad of opportunity to visit the exposition this year. By doing so I have strengthened my belief in the necessity to maintain every proper agency aiming to improve livestock, and to increase the rewards of the industry. The faith and determination of those who have effected the great improvement in our livestock since the beginning of this century are deserving of all encouragement and support, and you may be sure that these will be extended in every proper manner by the National Government. The importance, indeed the necessity, of such a policy is attested by the statement that for the crop year 1923-24 over 53 per cent of the gross income of the Nation from agricultural production came from livestock. Over 11 per cent of the entire national income from all industry in the Nation was from livestock and livestock products. Finally, our country's preeminence in this branch of agriculture is shown by the fact that although we have only about 6 per cent of the world's population, we possess over 11 per cent of its cattle, over 29 per cent of its swine, and nearly 8 per cent of its sheep. We are the greatest meat-producing and the greatest meat-consuming Nation in the world. It is necessary to have prosperity for an industry which is so great a national asset. The livestock industry is on a better foundation to-day than at any time since the price collapse of 1919 and 1920. The cattle men have had a harder time than any other group. For three years gradual but steady liquidation has been going on in the cattle industry. Now, however, many of the expensive wartime loans have been paid, money is cheaper and the outlook for reduction of hog raising should strengthen the market for beef. Conditions are not yet good, however, in the cattle business. The enormous increase in hog production and slaughtering in 1922 and 1923 produced a competition which inevitably injured the market for beef....In a broad view, I think we will find general agreement that if our livestock industry were as efficient in marketing as it is in producing, its results would be far better. This exposition has been an annual exhibit of the best methods and results in production....But on the side of efficient marketing there has not been a corresponding progress. If this exposition, or some other institution adapted to

the purpose would devote the next quarter century to the betterment of marketing methods, and would do it as effectively as the work of improving production has been done, most of your problems would be far on the way to solution....Neither the Government, nor the institutions of agricultural education, nor the benevolent purposes of society as a whole, can in the end do for the farmers the things that only the farmers can do for themselves. Experts and scientists may devise means to cheapen and increase production. But there will be no cheaper or greater production unless the millions of farmers shall employ these means. Masters of business organization may work out plans for orderly production and orderly marketing. But unless the farmers will adopt these plans, they will produce no advantages.. ."

New Jersey Grange Advocates Convict Labor

An Atlantic City dispatch to the press of December 5 states that the establishment of convict farms, instead of jails, where the prisoners can maintain themselves and aid the community by raising farm products, was advocated December 4 by the New Jersey Grange, at the concluding session of its annual convention in Atlantic City. The Grange pointed out that this plan would benefit the prisoners and would be of great value to the State, since the prisoners could be used to drain the marsh lands, aid in the extermination of mosquitoes, and also work on the roads.

Potash

A charge that the German potash industry, through the pre-war monopoly restored to it by the Franco-German agreement to divide the American market, is keeping costs of exported potash so high as to penalize American and other consumers is made by Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering in its current issue. "The French and German potash agreement divides the American market in such manner," says the publication, "that the German manufacturers will make 62 1/2 per cent of deliveries and those in France (Alsace) 37 1/2 per cent. The agreement remains in effect for three years from May 1 last, and continues the production, allocation and price-fixing of the German Federal Potash Council (the Reichs-Kalirat), with its uneconomic policy of shielding the inefficient home producer at the expense of American and other foreign users."

Russia Modifies Economic Policy

An Associated Press dispatch from Moscow December 5 says: "The Soviet's economic policy, appears to be undergoing gradual modifications. The Government of late has adopted a much more lenient attitude toward private trading, private capital, foreign imports and concessions. The change of tactics to bolster up the Soviet economic structure received official emphasis December 4 when Feliz Djerjinsky, head of the Supreme Economic Council, declared at a meeting of the council that Soviet legislation and Communist Party instructions had gone too far in suppressing private capital. The Speaker urged the reintroducing of private funds into trade and recommended a less drastic policy toward foreign importations. He also stressed the desirability of granting concessions to foreigners. This, he asserted, was a sounder economic policy than seeking loans abroad."

Sugar Merger Delayed — Merger of the American Sugar Refining Company with the National Sugar Refining Company of New Jersey will require a court modification of a decree entered in 1922, in the opinion of Attorney General Stone. A Department of Justice investigation into a merger proposal had convinced him, he stated, although the inquiry still is incomplete, that sufficient grounds exist for withholding consent without first having a court review. The court decree enjoined the American Company from obtaining more of the stock of the National than held May 2, 1922, the date of the decree. The decision recited that the American once held 50 per cent of the proposed stock of the National, but during the suit it disposed of half of its holdings.(Press, Dec. 5.)

Tax Cut Urged by Secretary Mellon — Secretary Mellon, in his annual report, submitted to Congress December 4, made another appeal for the reduction of high surtax rates, and for other tax reforms as beneficial to business, contending that "there lie before us to-day, if we approach them with intelligence, years of prosperous and healthy conditions such as succeeded the election of 1896." Mr. Mellon recommended a surtax of not more than 25 per cent of incomes of $300,000 and over, which with the normal tax of 6 per cent would give a maximum level of 31 per cent, the same he sought unsuccessfully to have adopted by the last session of Congress. He also asked for a revision downward of the estate taxes, a reconsideration of the gift tax provisions, and repeal of the publicity section of the revenue law. These definite recommendations followed a review by Secretary Mellon of the strides which the United States has made toward complete post-war economic rehabilitation, in which he said that "we are perhaps the first nation now to present reasonable assurances that we have come through successfully." (Press, Dec. 5.)

Western Land Values — An editorial in New England Homestead for November 29 says: "Another boom in land 'values' is making headway in the western corn belt. Higher prices for grain are being capitalized by adding $25 to the price of land. Speculators are beginning to contract for farms at the advance, in hopes of unloading upon ignorant or deluded investors. This is the gamble which within four years plunged the whole western country into distress. It looks as though a lot of western 'lambs' were going to be sheared much as certain eastern 'lambs' are being sheared who rushed into Wall Street to pay fancy prices for stocks that can not earn a return thereon. All such attempts to 'lift one's self by the bootstraps' inevitably end in reaction and failure. Potato and apple growers, who now are suffering from low prices, are to-day in the predicament that may befall western grain growers next year, should 1925 produce a world plethora of grain instead of the phenomenal shortage in grain in nearly all other countries than the United States, which is the cause of present high prices for grain, feed and flour."

Wool Market — The Commercial Bulletin to-day says: "The business in wool is somewhat irregular, depending largely upon the stocks available, which are very limited, as a whole....In the West contracting is proceeding more or less steadily and prices are fully firm compared with last week, the outstanding feature of the week being the sealed bid sale of Idaho wools at Portland,Ore., where 55 1/8 cents was paid for the Van Dusen medium clip, bulk, three-eights grade."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Dec. 5: Chicago hog prices closed at $9.60 for the top and $8.50 to $9.20 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $7.35 to $12.75; butcher cows and heifers $3.40 to $10.75; and feeder steers $4.25 to $7.50.

Maine bulk Green Mountain potatoes $1.10 to $1.35 in New York, 50 to 55¢ f.o.b. Presque Isle. Virginia yellow sweet potatoes closed at 75¢ to $1.50 higher in eastern markets at $5 to $6.50 per barrel. New York Danish type cabbage $2 to $3 lower at $18 to $22 per ton in eastern cities; steady at $12 to $14 f.o.b. Rochester. Midwestern yellow onions mostly $2.25 to $2.75. Maine Baldwin apples sold at $5 to $6 per barrel in city markets.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 45¢; Philadelphia 45 1/2¢; Boston 45¢.

Grain prices quoted December 5: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.53 to $1.77. No.2 red winter, St. Louis $1.72; Kansas City $1.62. No.3 red winter, Chicago $1.65 1/2. No.2 hard winter, St. Louis $1.56 1/2; Kansas City $1.48 to $1.56. No.2 mixed corn, Chicago $1.18 1/2; Minneapolis $1.13 1/4 to $1.15 1/4 Kansas City $1.10. No.2 yellow corn, Chicago $1.20 to $1.20 1/4, Minneapolis $1.20 1/4 to $1.20 3/4; St.Louis $1.17 to $1.17 1/2; Kansas City $1.12 to $1.13. No.3 yellow corn Minneapolis $1.15 1/4 to $1.19 1/4. No.2 white corn Chicago $1.18 1/2 to $1.18 3/4; St. Louis $1.17 1/2; Kansas City $1.11 to $1.12. No.2 white oats, Kansas City 56 1/2¢. No.3 white oats, Chicago 53 to 55¢; Minneapolis 50 3/8¢; St. Louis 54 1/2 to 55¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 2 points, closing at 22.92¢ per lb. New York December future contracts unchanged at 22.80¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Dec. 5,	Dec. 4,	Dec. 5, 1923
20 Industrials	111.26	111.56	92.81
20 R.R.stocks	97.40	98.03	81.80

(Wall St. Jour., Dec. 6.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XV,no.58 Section 1 December 8, 1924

The Secretary's Annual Report

American agriculture is in the best position it has held since 1920, according to the annual report of the Secretary of Agriculture, and prospects are that the gross income from agricultural products in the United States for the crop year 1924-25 may reach about $12,000,000,000. In the crop year 1923-24 the gross income from such products was $11,500,000,000, and in 1921-22 it was $9,500,000,000. The report is that of Henry C. Wallace. It has just been transmitted to President Coolidge by Secretary Gore, who informed the President that although Mr. Wallace never saw the final draft of the report, it was prepared under Mr. Wallace's direction and is believed to express his views regarding the agricultural situation. Prices of many crops, the report declared, are at the highest point in four years, and the costs of production have declined from the high point of the depression period. This year's harvest is declared to have been in many respects the finest in five years. Although not the greatest in volume of products, it is described as having been the best balanced and as having represented the best income. "The showing of 1924," says the report, "brings agricultural prosperity nearer, although the improvement it represents has not yet lasted quite long enough to produce any marked betterment in the finances of the farmer. Yet it would be a mistake to conclude that the American farmer is done with the troubles of the depression period. If the readjustment is left to blind economic forces it will be many years before that can be said. Although farm commodity price levels are headed toward a better position, they have still a large gain to make before agricultural products will be on a parity with other products. This means that agriculture is still laboring under a heavy disadvantage. The improvement that has taken place has not yet lasted long enough to produce any marked betterment in the finances of the farmer....." The report contains the views of Secretary Wallace on agricultural cooperation, which, he asserted, should be kept free from domination by Government agencies or commercial interests. (Press, Dec.8.)

Agriculture Bill Reported to House

Accepting the recommendations of the Budget Bureau, except on a few items, the House appropriations committee reported December 6 the annual supply bill for the Department of Agriculture. It will be taken up by the House Tuesday. The bill, framed by a subcommittee, of which Representative Magee is chairman, carries $124,637,715, of which $80,000,000 would be available for road construction during the fiscal year beginning next July 1. The measure's total is $58,923,279 more than the amount allotted the Agricultural Department for the current fiscal year, but is $3,114,285 less than budget estimates. For roads $61,000,000 more than the total in last year's bill is carried. This is $3,750,000 less than the allotment recommended by the budget. In addition to the amount carried in the bill, the committee's report pointed out that permanent and indefinite appropriations for the department, requiring no legislative action, total $12,340,750. (Press, Dec. 9.)

Wheat Acreage

The New York Times of December 8 states that a private estimate of the wheat acreage to be sown this fall is 42,189,000 acres, or 5 per cent more than a year ago, but 8.2 per cent under that of two years ago. Condition on Dec. 1 is 85, slightly under the ten-year average of 85.6.

Section 2

Agricultural Commission

Hoard's Dairyman for December 5 says:"....Suggestions and plans for aiding agriculture are so numerous, and many of them so faulty, that it was both fitting and wise that the President of the United States select a commission as he has and made up of men who thoroughly understand the agricultural situation of the country and who are in deep sympathy with its welfare. In recent years there has been much talk of an agricultural program, for thinking men fully appreciate that agriculture is meeting a different situation now than it has in the past. Changes in agricultural practice and thinking must be made if it is to keep step with the progress of other industries. In the building of an agricultural program, many factors are to be considered and no one can hope for this commission to prepare a detailed program. It can call attention to the importance of diversification, of growing crops adapted to certain sections of the country, of producing more products locally, of efficient production, of the value of cooperative marketing, of adequate credit, of the necessity of leadership, of fertile soils, etc. The agricultural commission has a big job in bringing together information concerning all the various activities of agriculture and then preparing a general plan by which we may unite for the purpose of building agriculture upon a sound and firm foundation. Every thinking man knows that the welfare of this Nation depends upon a prosperous agriculture and that the people engaged in this industry must be adequately compensated for their work."

Agricultural Situation

The Las Vegas Daily Optic of December 2 says: "No doubt it is true that if more of wheat, corn or any other product is grown next year than the markets will take at this year's price, the price will decline...It is true that the rise of prices this year does not give assurance that prices will not be low at any time in the future, but they afford a demonstration that there is one effective way by which the farmers themselves may exercise a reasonable degree of control over prices. Daily observation of the markets will show that prices are governed by the relation between supply and demand. Producers of all commodities find it necessary to recognize this fact and adapt their plans to it. It may be added, however, that since the break of prices in 1920 the markets for foodstuffs have been unsettled and speculative to a greater degree than before the war, because of the difficulty in forecasting both the available supply and the effective demand. Russia has been a highly uncertain factor in supply and the purchasing power of Europe has been an uncertain factor in demand. The recovery of the wheat price this year will put more courage into the markets next year, for it has demonstrated that the margin of supply from year to year is a narrow one, and that if wheat is not wanted in one year it is very likely to be wanted in the next."

Agriculture

An editorial on "The Plane of American Agriculture," in The Florida Times-Union for December 4 says: "....Culture is not confined to the cities. Education is sought for in the country as well. The farmer takes pride in his vocation. The World War aroused many thoughtless denizens of the city to his, or her, dependence on the tiller of the soil--and aroused the latter's consciousness of the all-important part in the scheme of life his collective labor bears. Only his inability to organize as strongly as labor has makes the farmer

'defenseless.' Cooperation is a long step in the direction of effective organization. It will do more to establish him on the plane to which he aspires--that to which the divic population has climbed--then any other agency. Direct dealing between producer and consumer is no idle dream. But he can not raise world agriculture with him. And he must be content to see the prices of foreign markets govern, in large measure, those of our domestic markets in the greater commodities he produces, such as wheat, corn or cotton....."

Corn Prices

An editorial in Southern Ruralist for November 15 says: "The shortage of the wheat, rye and barley crops of many of the countries of the old world, together with frost damage and other factors that have served to decrease the corn crop of the United States this year, seems definitely now to point to a price of at least two dollars for corn here in the South next spring. It is bringing $1.55 here in the Atlanta markets as this is written. With reference to the frost damage, we should point out the very significant fact that however many million bushels may be represented in that portion of the Nation's crop, these millions of bushels can not, by the very nature of things, find their way into commercial trade. Indeed, it is not only the part of wisdom but it is necessary to feed this corn to livestock on the farms where grown and market it in the shape of hogs or some other animal product. Relatively the commercial corn crop of the year is going to be mighty low. And relatively the price is going to be sky high. It already is."

Cotton in Australia

The press of December 6 states that J.A.M.Elder, the commissioner for Australia at New York, has received cable advices from Australia stating that the sale of Queensland cotton was very satisfactory. Mr. Elder says: "The cotton industry in Australia is at present in an embryonic stage. The cotton grown so far has realized such high prices and the area available for cultivation is so large that this industry is destined to be very important."

Farm Accounting in Schools

Pennsylvania Farmer for December 6 says: "Simple farm accounting has been introduced into the schools for the seventh and eighth grades in six counties in Indiana. We believe this plan, if generally adopted, would be more effective than any other in finally making the keeping of farm accounts a general practice among farmers. Past experience makes it evident that it is impossible to induce any considerable number of adult farmers to keep books on their business. Making it a part of the rural school curriculum looks like a sensible idea."

Flour Drops in France

A Paris dispatch to the press of December 6 states that the price of flour has dropped two francs a quintal since last week, and Minister of Agriculture Queuille hopes to reduce the price of bread one sou a kilogram by Christmas if the downward movement continues.

Hoover Opposes More Radio Control

Secretary Hoover sent a letter December 5 to Representative White, chairman of the House merchant marine committee, opposing the adoption, at this time, of legislation for rigid control of the radio industry by the Government. Mr. Hoover contended that development of the industry would be aided by withholding restrictions while it was still in the pioneer stage, and he was particularly opposed to

giving the Department of Commerce any judicial powers under which it would be called upon to determine whether a monopoly existed. (Press, Dec.6.)

International Livestock Show

Sioux City Live Stock Redord of December 1 says: "....It is a big show and there is no question about the good work it is doing. It has been remarked in recent days that something ought to happen pretty soon to stimulate more of an interest in breeding up herds and flocks on farms of this country. We know of nothing that suggests so much for the future of good livestock on farms, and a big interest in this stock as does the work that was prominent in the international arena on the opening day, and continued through the first two days of the show. We mean the work of the boys and girls with over a hundred boys' judging teams going over exhibits of cattle, hogs, horses and sheep--doing this under the direction of animal husbandry men from the agricultural collgges--means interest in the production of better livestock on the farms of this country--either that or it doesn't mean anything and the colleges should be abolished. And there are teams of the kind here from many States, looking the animals over for points; it is team contest work for which prizes are offered, and the influence of these contests is carried to every State in the Union."

Milling Situation

An editorial in Modern Miller for November 29 says: "Millers are experiencing the worst case of 'blues' they have had since the never-to-be-forgotten deflation period following the World War, as a result of which quite a number were forced to the wall. The turning point then was the declaration of peace, this time it was the presidential election. At times it appears that millers are drifting in the same direction they did some years ago and that they again will have to go through a period of reconstruction. There, however, is one great difference between the two periods. The millers are going to profit by their former experience. They are extremely conservative in all their dealings, although doing everything in their power to overcome the lethargy into which the milling business has drifted and which, if all indications do not fail, will continue during the remainder of the year, as the time is at hand when trade normally slackens for the holiday season. The almost total absence of new export business, after a period of abnormal activity, of course is not without effect. Yet it could not be expected that such a large volume of export business would be maintained for any length of time. After the most urgent requirements in Europe were supplied, the demand has changed more to wheat for economic reasons. It now is a question of how much of our flour Europe will need the present season, and much depends on the wheat harvests in the Southern Hemisphere. A point in favor of the millers is the fact that consumption of flour in the United States and some of the Latin-American countries is fully up to normal. Meats and other food products are high in price, while flour is comparatively cheap, notwithstanding the advance since harvest, that it is seasonable to expect continued liberal consumption. Since this is the case, all the millers have to worry about, as far as the domestic trade is concerned, is the time and in what quantities this flour will be purchased from now on."

Speculation

George E. Roberts, vice president of the National City Bank of New York, is the author of an article on speculation as a needful service in The Nation's Business for December. He says: "You go into a store to buy an overcoat. Is the dealer who sells it to you a speculator? He certainly is--one of the most common in the business world. He speculates on the number of overcoats which the men in his locality will buy; he speculates on the styles and colors which they will prefer; and he speculates heavily on the weather. If winter is late, as it often is, and the weather continues moderate and backward, people will not buy overcoats during the regular buying season. Dealers who have big stocks in their stores will be 'stuck.' Their calculations will have gone against them, and they must stand losses... In agriculture, risk is inescapable. Nobody can tell in advance what the price of farm products will be because nobody can tell what the yield will be. A bumper corn crop may be cut down almost at harvest time by a premature frost. Wheat may suffer from dampness while waiting for the threshing machine. There is no way to compel hens to post in advance a schedule of how many eggs they are going to lay. Yet people demand bread, corn, and eggs day in and day out. Whoever deals with these commodities is dealing with a speculative situation. He can not avoid it....Claims are frequent, for example, that 'speculators' buy up the farmers' crops when they are cheap and then hold them until prices rise, after which the crops are released as needed to serve the 'speculators' immoral wishes. Actions of speculators are said to be back of food prices when they are either abnormally high or abnormally low. If prices are low, the 'speculator' is defrauding the producer; if prices are high, he is working out the same evil purposes against the consumer. Is there any justification for such sweeping claims?....The places where most speculators meet, or where their actions concentrate, are in the organized exchanges--the boards of trade, the grain exchanges, the produce exchanges, the stock exchanges, and the like. We can arrive at a better understanding of the speculator, therefore, by considering his relation to the organized exchanges. An organized exchange is not a company or a building but a market. It does no buying or selling itself, but furnishes a place where trading may go on and sets up rules and regulations to govern it. It also furnishes market information and reports. There are two main classes of sales that take place--one for cash, with the goods delivered when the sale is made, and the other called 'futures.' In future trading, what is bought or sold is a contract that calls for the delivery of a certain quantity or grade of commodity at a designated future date. Future trading is important, for by means of it those who so desire may avoid the hazards of speculation...The fact that prices so fluctuate on the organized exchanges is often pointed to as evidence that there is constant artificial manipulation, which is the farthest from the actual case. What frequent fluctuations indicate is a high state of competition, with every factor registering an influence. Evidence of this is found in an investigation of the fluctuations in wheat prices extending over 100 years, and covering a period both before and after grain exchanges were in existence. Before future trading was established the fluctuations were twice as great as in the period since. A comparison of the fluctuations in cash prices of wheat, barley, and oats for eighteen years shows the widest fluctuation in barley, which is not traded in for future delivery. Oats is very similar to barley both in production and use, yet oats,

although traded in for future delivery, did not show so wide a variation. The price of barley fluctuated over 100 per cent in price eight times in the eighteen years, while wheat so fluctuated only once, and oats only twice. It should be clearly noted that speculators profit only as they anticipate conditions. If they speculate for a rise in wheat and wheat does not rise, they fail to make a profit. If, on the other hand, they feel that conditions indicate a fall, they only profit by being correct in their analysis. Since this is the case, speculators who are well informed have a steadying effect upon prices; they stabilize prices, and reduce the severity of the fluctuations. They improve conditions by calling attention to an oversupply or to a shortage in advance of the time that it otherwise would be felt in sharp severity. They equalize consumption over the time which the available supply must serve."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products For the week ended December 6: New York sacked Round White potatoes $1.10 to $1.25 per 100 pounds in eastern cities; mostly 80 to 85¢ f.o.b. Rochester. Maine bulk Green Mountains $1.25 to $1.30 in New York; 55 to 60¢ f.o.b. Presque Isle. New York Danish type cabbage generally lower at $18 to $20 bulk per ton in eastern markets, top of $22 in New York; steady at $12 to $14 f.o.b. Rochester. New York yellow varieties of onions mostly $2.50 to $2.75 sacked per 100 pounds in eastern markets; best stock $2.50 f.o.b. Rochester. California Golden Hearts celery mostly $5 to $5.50 per crate. New York Baldwin apples, fair quality, $5.25 per barrel in New York.

In eastern wholesale fresh meat markets prices on good grade meats for December 5 were: Beef $13.50 to $18; veal $14 to $17; lamb $21 to $23; mutton $12 to $15; light pork loins $15 to $17, and heavy loins $12 to $15.

Grain market firm. Corn futures 3 to 5¢ higher than week ago on ready absorption of offerings and bullish Argentine news. Wheat futures higher with strength in corn and claims Argentine crop damage in spite of lower prices at Liverpool. Oats and rye higher with wheat and corn.

Butter markets unsettled throughout week and at close were very weak with price tendency downward. Very active movement of storage butter on account of scarcity of fresh. No exports. Closing prices: New York 43¢; Chicago 43 1/4¢; Philadelphia 45 1/2¢; Boston 45¢.

Cheese markets continue firm at about 1¢ higher. Wholesale prices on Wisconsin primary markets December 5: Cheddars 20 1/4¢; Single Daisies 21¢; Double Daisies 20 3/4¢; Longhorns 21 1/4¢; Square Prints 23¢.

Average prices of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 34 points during week, closing at 22.92¢ per lb. New York December future contracts declined 45 points, closing at 22.83¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Dec. 6,	Dec. 5,	Dec. 6, 1923
20 Industrials	111.10	111.26	92.94
20 R.R. stocks	97.25	97.40	82.40

(Wall St. Jour., Dec. 8.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval, or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XV,no.59 Section 1 December 9, 1924

Grain Trading — A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day states that a movement is under way to try to restore trading in indemnities on grain, and efforts will be made at Washington by grain interests to have the Capper-Tincher Future Trading act amended so as to permit such trading.

Cotton Statistics Legislation — The Senate agricultural committee December 8 ordered a favorable report on the bill of Senator Smith of South Carolina, amending the act authorizing the collection and publication of statistics of cotton relative to the quantity of cotton ginned. (Press,Dec. 9.)

Packers' Consent Decree — A report on the operation of the packers' consent decree was requested of the Federal Trade Commission December 8 by the Senate, which adopted a resolution of inquiry by Senator Norris. The decree contemplated sale by the packing companies of certain subsidiary lines, and Senator Norris indicated that he acted because of reports that the agreement was to be modified. (Press, Dec. 9.)

Farmer to Consumer League Projected — Strong indorsement of two recent utterances of President Coolidge on the urgent need of farm relief legislation is contained in the opening announcement of the temporary committee on organization of the Farmer-To-Consumer League, described as a new national non-partisan association for the relief of agriculture through cooperative marketing. Headquarters will be established in Washington, and offices will be maintained at New York. Reference is made in the announcement to the fact that the President declared that the only way of "rescuing agriculture must come through simple and direct methods put into operation by the farmer himself as the only real source of restoration." The organization pledges itself to aid farmers in their efforts to obtain farm relief legislation at this session of Congress and to expose the opposition of middlemen who are said to be blocking the passage of any bill providing for cooperative national farm marketing by the farmers themselves. House and Senate leaders will be asked to include farm relief legislation at this session of Congress in line with the proposal of President Coolidge that immediate relief be given farming interests. (Press, Dec. 8.)

Maine Potato Situation — A dispatch from Caribou, Me., to the press of December 8 states that the Maine potato crop will find an outlet in a British market, relieving the distress of the farmers who had this fall failed to sell profitably their produce in the domestic market, according to a cablegram received from representatives of the Maine Potato Growers' Exchange and independent shippers in Aroostook County now in London. Farmers who have had to sell at 90 cents a barrel have been unable to pay taxes, with the result that Aroostook County schools have faced closure.

Section 2

Agricultural Commission 1 The Michigan Business Farmer for December 6 says: "The farm board of advisers appointed last month by President Coolidge did not lose much time getting into action and that would augur well for its future accomplishments....One of the matters which will certainly be presented to Congress is a freight reduction on farm products, where it is justified. It has been stated by competent investigators that agriculture is carrying an unfair share of the load, even with the better prices which have been in evidence during the present harvesting season. The commission is composed of men, most of whom are identified with the great cooperative marketing movements in the farming business and they are capable of suggesting practical measures which are not put forward solely with the purpose of building political fences....The farmers of America do not ask what is not their just due. They are not demanding a subsidy at the expense of the Government as a whole. They ask only a fair and square deal which will enable them to take advantage of the natural improvement which economic conditions the world over are now returning to a normal basis. A fair return for the hours of labor and the capital invested, is all the farmers are asking and that they are now in a better position than ever before to realize this ambition seems pretty well admitted."

2 An editorial in The Nebraska Farmer for December 6 says:"...This commission is made up of very capable men with the ability to formulate constructive proposals for farm relief, need of which there must be or the commission would not have been appointed. The farmers are more anxious to see this commission offer some practical remedy than they are to have their ills diagnosed without a cure prescribed. Farmers already know what ails them. Their own experiences are the best diagnosis and if they do not know from these, they have been told time and again by hundreds who profess to be agricultural doctors. We feel, therefore, that the present agricultural commission, to make a hit with the farmers, must get down to brass tacks and accomplish more than a diagnosis, the suggestion of some impracticable plan, or the application of salve and the declaration that everything will be right in a few more weeks. Therein lies the commission's opportunity, and we admit it has no small job to be able to live up to it."

Agricultural Report An editorial on the annual report of the Secretary of Agriculture, in The Journal of Commerce for December 8, says: "The inquiring mind will find it difficult to repress the question whether if the caprices of weather in wheat-growing areas in Canada and Europe had not served farmers in those districts quite so badly and if frost had not come in the cotton belt last winter to kill off hibernating weevils the Secretary of Agriculture would find it possible to hold the view that production during the past year has been 'better balanced.' But however that may be, for the time being at all events, improvement has come to the rank and file of the farmers of the Nation. This state of affairs is having good reflex effects throughout the Nation's business. Old 'frozen' loans are being paid off. Local banks are getting in funds which a year ago they in some cases at least had almost despaired of. Much the same is true of the local merchant. One result is that city banks and

wholesale houses which had been carrying country bankers and country merchants are finding it possible to liquidate old and very slow accounts. In addition, new and invigorated demand for consumers' goods is being reported by manufacturers and distributers who serve rural sections. There are still spots that are bad enough, and relatively large areas still exist in which it will hardly be possible to 'clean up' in any thoroughgoing fashion. Mortgage indebtedness, which of late years has so heavily increased in agricultural regions, still remains but little reduced. But improvement of a very real sort has without question taken place. But what of the future? Can the progress that has been made be considered a step in the right direction which is reasonably sure to be followed by others of a similar sort? Is the newly found 'prosperity' of the farmer something that bids fair to continue and to increase as time passes? That, with deep regret be it said, is very doubtful. Preliminary estimates place the increase in wheat acreage in this country at a very substantial figure. No one can foresee what the spring wheat crop of Canada will be next year, or, what will be the success of the European wheat farmer. But it can be said that there is no reason whatever as yet to predict another shortage of production such as that occurring this past season. Probably the most likely crop is the average or normal one. If such a crop is grown and harvested successfully the American wheat farmer, with his great acreage now covered with wheat apparently in excellent condition, may find himself with a large supply of grain which can not be sold at profitable prices. We are still pretty largely dependent upon the friendly aid of rather unusual weather for control of the boll weevil, so small has been our progress in combating that pest. In other directions, too, farm progress during the past year has been fully as much the result of good luck as of good judgment, and therefore remains in a precarious position. Is it not the duty of Government officials to take more constructive cognizance of this phase of the situation? And is not the Department of Agriculture the branch of the Federal Government which ought to take the lead?"

Agriculture as Viewed by Lowden

Ex-Governor Lowden presents his views on the agricultural situation through an interview conducted by Theodore M. Knappen in The Magazine of Wall Street for December 6. In reply to Mr. Knappen's suggestion that the outlook for prosperity is now bright and promising, Mr. Lowden said: "Momentarily yes, but I do not mean to say that long-continued prosperity is assured. The foundation is futile without the superstructure. The touch of ready money that the small-grain farmers have had will not go far to restore agricultural prosperity permanently, and you know that we of the West can not get away from agriculture when we talk about business prospects. It is harmful, as so many of our commercial commentators are now doing, to talk so emphatically about the revival of agriculture. I would not belittle the fact that the West has had good wheat, rye and oats crops at fair prices this year, for it has been the salvation of an unendurable situation. But one crop does not make up for several years of losses, though it prompts hope to dispel gloom. The corn situation is bad. The crop is short and poor. The high price will apply to not more than half the usual amount that leaves the farms. Then again to feed high-priced corn to low-priced meat animals is not a rosy prospect for the farmer and even if the hog price be good it may not compensate for the corn price. The dairy industry is not in a happy mood. Our

annual dairy output is more in value than that of cotton, corn and wheat combined, and is double that of the last. Dairy products prices are lower than they were a year ago, and this decline affects a much larger number of farmers than are benefited by the boost in wheat prices. So you will see it is a grave mistake to assume that agriculture is out of its long depression simply because the wheat raisers have had a little luck this year. It will take more luck, and we may have it....I believe--taking the long view--that the farmers have seen their worst days. Time now fights on their side. Population multiplies in the cities and is stationary on the farms. Agricultural production is static and manufacturing production grows. People must eat and manufactured goods must be exchanged for the products of the soil. There is no more cheap land out of which to make farms. The Malthusian law operates. Agriculture must flourish or we shall faint and famish."

Export Trade An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for December 6 says: "Department of Commerce reports show that for the first ten months of the calendar year our export trade was considerably larger than that of a year ago. That the reports will continue to show an improvement throughout the whole calendar year there is little room for doubt. Business both at home and abroad is on an upward trend....The returns for the export trade show a very satisfactory-growth in business. Foodstuffs such as meat and grain of course have made up a large part of the increase. This is due in part to our large production while the rest of the world was short. These exports are likely to continue for some months yet, even to exhaustion of our extire surplus. The large exports also include some important raw materials for industry such as cotton and copper. In October cotton began to count slowly in the export trade and now the total shipments are far in advance of those of a year ago. An industrial revival in Europe is indicated by the shipments of these raw materials. It is important to note that not our trade alone, but that of the whole world is expanding. An industrial revival in Europe should mean far larger exports from the United States of such essential raw materials as cotton and copper, and perhaps also increase the demand for foodstuffs. Occasionally the fear is being expressed that such a revival would mean a loss to our manufacturers whose products now make up about 40 per cent of the export trade. An analysis of the situation, however, should convince anyone that the manufacturers of the United States have little to fear and much to gain from a revival of industry in Europe and its recovery from the depression occasioned by the war."

Farm Improvement Reflex An editorial in The Magazine of Wall Street for December 6 says: "Reports from the West and South confirm the impression that the high price for staples has served to increase business activity in those sections of the country. A good deal of interest is being manifested in goods used in farm consumption. Of principal importance is the probability that industries directly dependent on agricultural conditions such as fertilizers and farm machinery, particularly the latter, have left their depression behind them and now face a period of at least fair earnings. Such industries, in any case, are benefiting from the increased ability of the farmer to pay off his debts of years' standing. The result should be witnessed in a considerable improvement in the financial position of these companies."

Food Price Situation in Britain

Country Life (London) for November 29 says: "Sir Auckland Geddes ought to make an excellent chairman of the committee to inquire into the disparity in food prices. Before going as ambassador of Great Britain to the United States he had a brilliant official career, and his is the scientific mind which should be able to analyze this food problem and discover the spot where trouble is caused. We may be certain, too, that under his chairmanship the task of the commission will promptly be performed. The previous inquiry, made under the chairmanship of Lord Linlithgow, led to the acquisition of a great many facts bearing on the important difference there is between the price obtained by the producer and that which has to be handed over to the retailer. There will be no need to make a complete inquiry upon this subject, although it may be found that parts of the early report require elucidation.. But while the inquiry is going on no opportunity should be missed of encouraging the solution of this difficulty by private effort. For example, the superintendent of Smithfield Market has decided to take a very good line as far as meat prices are concerned. He began last week, and is going to continue weekly, to send out a list of prices which the housewife should pay. This will be a price that includes a fair return to the retailer. One difficulty arising out of the situation is that prices of food differ in various districts in London; but Mr. Millman's plan is to give the prices of the best cuts only, and the buyer will know from them what the inferior meat should cost....Owing, as far as we can learn, to climatic reasons, the shipments of frozen meat have been on a diminishing scale for some time....It would be impossible to fix prices for any length of time, because, after all, the raising of livestock is a department of agriculture, and agriculture, wherever it is carried on, whether in a temperate or a torrid zone, is, to some extent, at the mercy of the weather....In regard to cereals, the difficulties are not so great as they are in regard to meat, because wheat, the chief of them, is grown in so many parts of the world that, if a crop fails in one country or even on one continent, the deficiency can generally be made up by the fact of another source of supply yielding a bumper crop. Chilled or frozen meat comes from comparatively few countries, and anything that is injurious to sheep farming in Australia or cattle feeding in the Argentine can not be easily balanced by the imports from any other part of the globe. At present the price of wheat is comparatively high, and experts hold that it will go higher before Christmas....That would be a cause for regret. All of us agree that the farmer is worthy of the hire, but there is no greater calamity to a nation than the price of food becoming so excessive as to be a hardship, a hardship capable of leading to a disturbance of the peace. ...Before the war we had been so long accustomed to cheap food that talk of this kind would not have been regarded as serious. The war is blamed for the situation and, no doubt, to some extent it lies at the root of comparative scarcity. It was the cause of the Russian supply of wheat to this country being reduced to insignificant proportions; and before the war Russia came very near to being our greatest source of supply. The falling off in exportable Russian produce is, therefore, a serious matter. Another cause of shortage is that the Japanese and Chinese to a greater extent than ever before have entered the ranks of wheat-consuming nations, and it is feared in many quarters that the numbers, especially of the Chinese, being so immense, may cause permanent difficulties in the way of feeding this country. These are only a few reflections touching the fringe

of the great question to which Sir Auckland Geddes and his coadjutors will have to find a reply. When all due consideration is given to them, it will probably be found that the prices are unreasonably high and that there are combinations among both wholesalers and retailers to keep up the prices to an artificial and grasping standard. It will certainly be to the advantage of the country if the whole matter is gone into broadmindedly and fairly."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Dec. 8: New York sacked Round White potatoes $1.05 to $1.25 per 100 pounds in eastern markets; 85¢ f.o.b. Rochester. Northern sacked Round Whites 90¢ to $1 carlot sales in Chicago; 65¢ to 75¢ f.o.b. New Jersey yellow sweet potatoes $2.60 to $3.25. Cabbage weakened slightly in leading markets, nearly steady at shipping points. New York Danish type $17 to $20 bulk per ton in eastern cities; $13 to $14 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Baldwin apples $5 per barrel in New York; $6 to $6.25 in Chicago.

Chicago hog prices closed at $9.60 for the top and $8.20 to $9.20 for the bulk; medium and good beef steers $7.25 to $13: butcher cows and heifers $3.40 to $11.75; feeder steers $4.25 to $7.50; veal calves $8 to $11; fat lambs $13.75 to $15.65 and yearlings $10 to $13.25.

Closing prices of 92 score butter: New York 45¢; Philadelphia 46¢; Boston 45¢.

Grain prices quoted December 8: No.1 dark northern, Minneapolis $1.59 to $1.81. No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.75 to $1.76; Kansas City $1.67. No.3 red winter, Chicago $1.70 1/2 to $1.71. No.2 hard winter, St. Louis $1.59 1/2 to $1.61; Kansas City $1.52 to $1.65 1/2. No.2 mixed corn, Chicago $1.21 1/4 to $1.22; Minneapolis $1.15 3/4 to $1.19 3/4; Kansas City $1.12 to $1.13. No.2 yellow corn, Chicago $1.22 1/4 to $1.25; Minneapolis $1.22 3/4 to $1.23 3/4; St.Louis $1.20; Kansas City $1.14 to $1.15. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.22 1/4; Minneapolis $1.19 3/4 to $1.21 3/4. No.2 white corn, Chicago $1.21 1/2 to $1.22; St.Louis $1.19 to $1.22; Kansas City $1.13 1/2 to $1.14 1/2. No.2 white oats, Kansas City 57 1/2¢. No.3 white oats, Chicago 56 to 58¢; Minneapolis 53 1/8 to 53 5/8¢; St. Louis 57 to 58¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 27 points, closing at 23.19¢ per lb. New York December future contracts advanced 27 points, closing at 23.10¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Dec. 8,	Dec. 6,	Dec. 8, 1923
20 Industrials	111.30	111.10	83.85
20 R.R.stocks	96.99	97.25	82.10

(Wall St. Jour., Dec. 9.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XV,no.60 Section 1 December 10,1924

Legislation The Republican steering committee of the Senate agreed yesterday to postpone agricultural legislation until after receipt of the report of the agricultural commission appointed by the President. Appropriation bills are to have the right of way, and ten measures and treaties reported and on the calendar are to be considered as time permits. Among the foregoing the most important include the McFadden bill to amend the National Bank act; to establish foreign trade zones at certain ports; for reorganization of Government Departments; to extend the Civil Service Retirement act; to construct the McKinley memorial bridge, and the Wadsworth constitutional amendment which would require ratification by legislatures elected after an amendment has been submitted by Congress.

The House yesterday concluded five hours of general debate on the Department of Agriculture bill and began its consideration for amendment. (Press,Dec.10.)

Muscle Shoals Bill Continued consideration was given yesterday in the Senate to the Muscle Shoals bill. The McKellar amendment providing that the property shall be leased only to American citizens or an American controlled corporation was adopted. (Press, Dec. 10.)

War Finance Corporation An amendment to the War Finance Corporation act was proposed yesterday in the House by Representative Dickinson, of Iowa, under which the Federal Farm Loan Board would be authorized to take over and administer the unfinished business of the corporation.(Press, Dec.10.)

Cotton Trade Fights Weevil The press to-day states that members of the New York Cotton Exchange pledged their support yesterday to the American Cotton Association in its fight against the boll weevil. They were joined in this by members of the Association of Cotton Merchants of New York. These resolutions were passed following a meeting at the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday afternoon at which Colonel Harvie Jordan, managing director of the Boll Weevil Control Campaign of the American Cotton Association, was the principal speaker. Colonel Jordan, after being introduced by Edward E. Bartlett,jr., president of the New York Cotton Exchange, said that unless next year's crop was larger than the average of the past three years it would spell disaster to the American and foreign cotton industry. "Unless we can solve the problems of larger production here we can look for a sufficient increase in foreign-grown cotton to meet the needs of foreign consumption," he said. "This would mean a tremendous financial blow to the United States, for it is only through the exportations of cotton now that we maintain a favorable trade balance. American cotton exports last year totaled $800,000,000 and our trade balance was only $375,000,000...."

America to Arms Parley Secretary Hughes announced yesterday acceptance by the American Government of the invitation from the League of Nations to participate in the proposed international conference on traffic in arms, munitions and implements of war to be held at Geneva in April or May, 1925.

Section 2

Agriculture

1 An editorial on the annual report of the Secretary of Agriculture in The Wall Street Journal of December 9 says: "Gross value of farm production this year is estimated by the Secretary of Agriculture at $12,000,000,000. This, he says, is $500,000,000 more than last. The figures, which are tentative, do not check up with those of former years as published in the Agricultural Yearbook for 1923. Gross value last year was put at $12,240,000,000. However, the estimate that the gross production is half a billion dollars more than in 1923 can be accepted as an extremely conservative statement of a piece of good news. There has been a wonderful improvement in farm conditions this year compared with the past four. The greatest change is in the districts that last year suffered most from small crops sold at low prices. Central and western Kansas and western Oklahoma, for instance, had an enormous crop this year, from which they should gain at least $125,000,000 over last year. The wheat farmers of the Northwest should have a return nearly 75 per cent more than last year. Wheat is an important crop in South Dakota and is the principal one of North Dakota. These two States together should, like Kansas and Oklahoma, be richer by $125,000,000, as compared with last year. Taking the farming community as a whole class, there is a gross income that must be considerably more than half a billion dollars greater than last year. This is of vital importance to business. Farmers and the rural communities dependent upon agriculture make up almost 50 per cent of the population. The farmers, therefore, are not to be looked upon as producers merely, but as the greatest consuming class in the country. Another thing that is adding to the farm income is the change in the price index. The general list of commodities is slowly receding, while that for farm products has been increasing in the past year. In October,1923, the Department of Labor's price index stood at 153.1 for all commodities and 144 for farm products. This year it is 151 for all commodities and 149.2 for farm products alone. Here is a considerable increase in the farmers' purchasing power independent of that of greatly increased crop production. It is not necessary to say that this great increase in farm purchasing power will be like new life blood poured into the business body, which will make its influence felt in banking, manufacturing, merchandising and transportation."

2 Rocky Mountain Husbandman for December 4 says: "The outstanding event of the year was the improvement in agricultural prices. Unlike manufacturing and mineral industries, a change in the volume of agricultural production often does not reflect a parallel change in the well-being of the producers. Farm products in general have little elasticity of demand in the home market. The farmer can not adapt his output rapidly to changes in the foreign demand. The aggregate area planted to crops in this country has varied only slightly from year to year since the war and most of the individual crops show little change in acreage, although the low prices of wheat have resulted in a very considerable reduction in the planting of that cereal. The farmer, from the very nature of things, can not suddenly and greatly increase or reduce his aggregate plantings or the proportion of his land devoted to different crops. Industries and commerce more readily adapt themselves to change in demand. The variations in output of crops from year to year are usually due much

more to weather conditions than to the will of the farmer. Therefore, farm prosperity can not be judged upon the criterion of production alone but requires consideration of prices as well. The situation of agricultural prices may be well indicated by comparing September prices with the general level of commodity prices. Based upon 1913 as 100 the wholesale price index of all commodities was 149. The corresponding price index of No.1 northern wheat was 148; of cotton (New York), 191; corn, 186; and hogs, 118. From the low point since the beginning of 1921 these figures represent recoveries; for wheat, of 37 points; cotton 99; corn, 111; and hogs, 37. Many readjustments are needed yet, but agriculture has turned an important corner and this change marks a vital step in the whole after-war economic readjustment. The increasing stability in agriculture is further marked by the fact that wholesale prices of food products show a continuing decrease in spread as compared to farm prices. This spread in the two indexes which amounted in certain months of 1921 to as much as 27 points has now (September, 1924) decreased to 5 points, indicating the steady elimination of speculation and closer trading margins through increasing economic stability and closer competition. The rise in agricultural prices, while in large part due to general world economic readjustment and to settlement of European economic conflicts, has been favored to some degree by local and special causes such as the decrease in corn crop and the fact that the abnormal world wheat crop of 1923 swung over to a slightly subnormal crop in 1924."

Agriculture 3 A Chicago dispatch to the press of December 9 says: "'Agriculture will come back. Of that there is no doubt. But will it come back and hold a proper level?' O.E.Bradfute, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, which is meeting at Chicago for three days, asked that question December 8 before 700 delegates, officials and visitors. 'Cooperative agriculture will hasten that day,' said Mr. Bradfute, 'but by that term I mean more than cooperative marketing. We must carry out a great program, planned and backed by the Department of Agriculture and the farmers' organizations and supported by the individual farmer.' More than $3,000,000,000 worth of agricultural products will be cooperatively marketed this year, the President said, which means an increase of 20 to 50 per cent over other years. Where failures have occurred mismanagement has been to blame, he declared. Mr. Bradfute warned his listeners not to be too provincial in their conception of agriculture in considering that the 'corn belt,' the seven States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, Kansas and Nebraska, is all that is to be considered when farming is the topic. 'It will be as much of a jolt to you as to me,' he said, 'to learn, as I did, that the gross cash agricultural income of seven other States--New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota and California--exceeded that of the "corn belt" States last year by several millions of dollars.' That the farmer is paying 'more than his just proportion of taxes is admitted by many who do not appear willing to readjust the situation,' said Mr.Bradfute. 'The road problem is another that deserves the consideration of the bureau and of the individual farmer,' he said."

Bakery Mergers The Northwestern Miller for December 3 says: "The Northwestern Miller is in receipt of the interesting suggestion that the merging of bakeries, presumably including the super-consolidation now being

attempted, will in the end prove a good thing for the milling industry. This conclusion is reached from the hypothesis that if concentrated buying reduces the manufacturing margin in flour, the miller will be compelled to institute greater economies in milling, and, q.e.f., he will attain greater prosperity. As a piece of buyer's philosophy, this may be accepted as a perfect syllogism. The seller may, perhaps, be permitted to take a somewhat different view. To him it may appear to be no more valuable than an argument that if a man has not enough to eat he will have to get along without eating, and in time will grow healthy and strong. Certainly millers have not at this time need for taking lessons in production efficiency or business economies from bakery mergers whose success has been attained, not through any superior ability in bakery management, but almost wholly by ability to make two shares of stock grow where only one grew before. If this kind of legerdemain would contribute to the prosperity of milling, and if millers were agreeable to shaking down the public, then indeed could the merger promoters claim the right to instruct. It is a curious argument, that pressure on flour prices and reduced conversion margins will in the end bring greater prosperity to milling. Yet it seems some way to disregard the natural wish of the miller who would thus be forced to economize, that he himself might be permitted to share in the benefits of his economy. As the case is presented, it seems to assume that the bakery mergers will, for the miller's own good, take the whole of the savings from him. In justification for this, there is the indubitable fact that the 'bread trust' will require all of this and much more to carry the burden of inflated capitalization which it is so confidently creating for itself."

Cattle Marketing — Sioux City Live Stock Record for December 6 says: "It goes without saying that if all the cattle brought to markets were ready for the fat car lot show then there would be no such thing as a spread of eight to ten dollars per hundred weight in prices. But market men and others are hearing much in these days about the low prices of both cattle and hogs. The oldest pioneer in the livestock and packing house game never saw a time when there was not a wide spread in prices during the two last months of the year. The conditions this year are greatly exaggerated. Nature, for some reason, furnished a cold, wet summer to the corn belt and as near a general failure of the corn crop as the oldest inhabitant has ever seen. Result: A forced marketing of a larger percentage of unfinished stock than is usual at the end of a year. We doubt whether this agricultural commission that was recently appointed by the President can suggest any cure for the condition that has prevailed this fall. The condition is an unfortunate one for the farmer; he can not help himself in many instances, but there is still the suggestion that not all of these warmed up cattle and less than half fat 150-pound pigs, and the lighter weights, are not actually forced to market. We suspect there is a lot of this chaffy corn being hoarded that won't sell at the dream prices being held up by certain country savers. Seems to us one real cooperative movement among farmers might be found in the man who has corn enough to winter his hogs and cattle doing so, and letting the neighbor who has not corn have the possible benefit of lighter supplies of poor to half fat cattle and pigs on the markets."

Cotton Report The Wall Street Journal of December 9 says: "Department of Agriculture has just announced that its final estimate of the cotton crop is 13,153,000 bales. At last the cat is out of the bag and all that can be said or guessed about the crop is a thing of the past, and now the market can proceed with other important questions. The report is considerably less than what a majority in the trade expected. But it is 654,000 bales more than the estimate on the first of October. That of itself is a matter of congratulation. Last summer we were headed toward another short crop of almost calamity proportions. This was averted at the last moment by an unusual change in the weather. 'We consider it a freak year somewhat similar to 1914,' said J.S.Bache & Co. in a market review. That fairly explains the change. After these many weeks of hopes and fears the market now may begin to figure on how much cotton will be consumed by the spindles of the world. An expansion in trade and industry the world over is now in progress. Mill stocks of cotton at the beginning of the crop year were unusually low and stocks of manufactured goods small. How much of this crop the world will take and at what prices are the great questions for the market to consider at this time. It is to be hoped that spinners of the world will take this opportunity to replenish their depleted reserves and fortify themselves against the danger of another short crop, and at the same time prepare to meet the coming expansion in world trade."

Food Costs of Army and Navy The Washington Post of December 8 says: "Despite the fact that last year it cost approximately 20 cents more a day to feed a sailor than it did a soldier, Navy Department officials look for an increase in the cost of naval rations for the fiscal year 1925. It cost the army slightly more than 30 cents a day to feed a soldier three meals. The Navy, according to the annual report of the Paymaster General, made public yesterday, paid 50,333 cents a day for its sailors' food. This was a half-cent increase over the previous year's cost."

Student Judges The Kansas City Daily Drovers Telegram for December 4 says: "....Any man who fails to fit himself for a specialized life will be left at the post in this day of specialization. And the farmer is no exception. College students who graduate without training along the lines of the business activity they expect to pursue, find themselves at a discount in the world's market for men of special fitness. From force of necessity such students take what they cam get, and what they get is at all times based on the law of supply and demand for labor and brains. It doesn't matter whether the farm boy leaves college to go into his own fields or as an employee in some one's else fields, his ability to know and perform will be his capital stock....The practical part of the visit of the college students to the exhibitions for judging purposes is to prove up on the classroom work. What is learned in school is of no value whatever unless the pupil knows his subject so well that he can put his knowledge to a successful test under strange surroundings and new conditions. A boy who can meet the new test where quality is rampant, where competition is keen, and where cynicism is pictured on the faces of onlookers who are skeptical, not only has made good in his college work, but good, old hard practical experience on the farm is the only teacher that can add to his store of knowledge. Animal husbandry is only a fractional part of the farm curriculum, and if you keep your eye on the boy who has gone to the bottom of animal husbandry you will find

that he is the fellow who is going to the bottom of soil fertility and rotation, and who is making special study of soil needs for each product grown from the soil. So, in answer to the skeptical inquirer we can but conclude that student judging contests of the big expositions are fraught with good and lasting results. And when you read that any of such students scores 700 or 800 or 900 points in a possible 1,000 you may just set it down that at some near date that boy is going to be scoring in the same ratio in the 1,000 possible points on the farm."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Dec.9: Sacked Round White potatoes from New York sold at $1.10 to $1.25 per 100 lbs. in eastern markets; few sales at 85¢ f.o.b. Rochester. Maine bulk Green Mountains $1.25 to $1.35 in New York; 60 to 65¢ f.o.b. Presque Isle. New York yellow onions mostly $2.25 to $2.50 per 100 lb. sack in eastern cities, top of $3 in Baltimore; $2.50 f.o.b. Rochester. Danish type cabbage from New York brought $17 to $20 bulk per ton in leading eastern markets; $12 to $14 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Golden Self-blanching celery mostly $2.25 to $2.50 per 2/3 crate, top of $2.75 in Baltimore and Pittsburgh. Florida Big Boston type lettuce $2 to $2.50 per 1 1/2 bu. hamper in New York and Philadelphia. Virginia and West Virginia York Imperial apples ranged $4.50 to $5.25 per bbl. top of $5.75 in Cincinnati.

Chicago hog prices closed at $9.85 for the top, bulk of sales $8.40 to $9.40. Medium and good beef steers $9 to $14.50; butcher cows and heifers $3.25 to $11.75; feeder steers $4.40 to $7.50; light and medium weight veal calves $8.25 to $10.25; fat lambs $14 to $15.90 and feeding lambs $12.75 to $15.25.

Grain prices quoted December 9: No.1 dark northern, Minneapolis $1.61 to $1.83. No.2 red winter, Chicago $1.72; St. Louis $1.76 1/2 to $1.77; Kansas City $1.65 to $1.67. No.2 hard winter, St.Louis $1.49 1/2 to $1.52; Kansas City $1.52 to $1.67. No.2 mixed corn, Chicago $1.22 3/4; Minneapolis $1.18 to $1.22. No.2 yellow corn, Chicago $1.23 3/4 to $1.24; Minneapolis $1.25 to $1.26; St.Louis $1.21; Kansas City $1.15 to $1.17. No.3 yellow corn, Minneapolis $1.22 to $1.25. No.2 white corn, St. Louis $1.23; Kansas City $1.14 to $1.16. No.2 white oats, Kansas City 57 3/4¢. No.3 white oats, Chicago 57 1/4 to 58 1/4¢; Minneapolis 54 3/8 to 54 7/8; St.Louis 57 1/2 to 58¢.

Spot cotton down 34 points, closing at 22.85¢ per lb. New York December future contracts down 37 points, closing at 22.73¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Dec. 9,	Dec. 8,	Dec. 8, 1923
20 Industrials	112.11	111.30	83.85
20 R.R.stocks	96.75	96.99	82.10

(Wall St. Jour., Dec. 10.)
